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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Portugal

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its nineteenth session from 28 April to 9 May 2014. The review of Portugal was held at the 5th meeting, on 30 April 2014. The delegation of Portugal was headed by Mr. Bruno Maçães, Secretary of State for European Affairs and Ms. Teresa Morais, Secretary of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Equality. At its 10th meeting, held on 2 May 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on Portugal.

2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Portugal: Brazil, the Philippines and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Portugal:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/PRT/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/PRT/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/PRT/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Portugal through the troika. Those questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation said that Portugal strongly supported the UPR process, as a unique and ambitious tool of the Human Rights Council. The outcome of the 2009 review and its implementation had broadly contributed to the improvement of the human rights situation in Portugal. The country's longstanding commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights should be underscored.

6. Despite the current economic and financial crisis, the Government of Portugal was deeply committed to implementing its human rights obligations and had adopted measures to minimize the impact of austerity, particularly on the most vulnerable persons. The adoption of the Social Emergency Programme in October 2011 should be highlighted.

7. It was a matter of pride for Portugal to inform the Working Group that all of the 86 recommendations accepted in 2009 had been implemented, or were being implemented.

8. The National Human Rights Commission had been established in April 2010. It enhanced coordination and information-sharing, bringing together Government and civil society in promoting an integrated approach to human rights. The Commission had proved its efficiency by making possible the timely submission of all national reports on

implementation to the United Nations treaty bodies. Portugal currently had no reports overdue.

9. Portugal was a party, without reservations, to eight core United Nations human rights treaties and their optional protocols, of which it had ratified a number since 2009.

10. It should be underscored that Portugal had implemented its national action plans on gender equality, domestic and gender-based violence, trafficking in human beings, female genital mutilation, the integration of Roma (Cigano) communities, United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and persons with disabilities.

11. The immigration integration policies pursued by Portugal had received international recognition in the *2010 World Migration Report* and had been ranked second in the Migration Integration Policy Index in 2010 and 2011.

12. The delegation responded to the questions submitted in advance by Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as follows.

13. In connection with its candidacy for the Human Rights Council (2015-2017), Portugal was willing to build bridges and foster dialogue with a view to achieving the universality of human rights. It was committed to the promotion and protection of all human rights, drawing inspiration from the fact that it had been one of the first countries in the world to abolish the death penalty, and was building on its multilateral experience on economic, social and cultural rights, and the rights of women, children and youth.

14. Portugal strongly supported the International Criminal Court and was deeply committed to cooperating with it. Portugal had amended its national Constitution prior to ratifying the Rome Statute, and had also amended the relevant national criminal legislation. The internal process for the ratification of the Kampala amendments was ongoing.

15. Reform of the judiciary system, aimed at making the court system more efficient, faster and accessible, was under way. The administrative reorganization of the judicial system would be concluded by the end of 2014.

16. Under Portuguese law on criminal procedure, pre-trial detention was deemed to be a coercive measure of an exceptional nature. It was limited to specific cases and could not exceed a period of between 4 and 18 months. In cases of terrorism, violent or highly-organized crime or crimes punishable by more than 8 years' imprisonment, the maximum time period in detention could vary from six months to two years. If a criminal investigation had not reached a conclusive result within those time periods, detainees were released and entitled to claim compensation from the State. There were specific detention facilities for pre-trial detainees.

17. Training on human rights was provided on an ongoing basis to law enforcement officials and members of the security forces in order to prevent ill-treatment and abuse. All allegations of ill-treatment and abuse were duly investigated and those found responsible were punished.

18. It should be emphasized that the use of Taser weapons was subjected to very strict rules. The law enforcement forces possessed a mere 76 Tasers, and the use of such weapons in prisons had been suspended since 2010.

19. Under the inclusive "More and Better Education" policy, education was free and compulsory up to the age of 18 years. All children, including those of undocumented immigrants, had access to the national education system. There were no segregated schools or classes, and special attention was given to disadvantaged groups.

20. The National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities 2013-2020, adopted in 2013, aimed to achieve the full and effective integration of Roma communities in Portuguese society by 2020.

21. Immigrant communities had full access to public services. All immigrants, regardless of their status, had access to the national health system. A number of National Support Centres for Migrants offered a wide range of services to facilitate the integration of immigrants.

22. Portugal had placed emphasis on the importance of maintaining an open dialogue with civil society in recent years. The National Human Rights Commission met regularly with civil society. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were systematically involved in the preparation of reports to the United Nations treaty bodies, as well as in the UPR process.

23. Portugal was currently preparing an initiative on corporate social responsibility, which included a specific chapter on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

24. The Second National Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings had had a 91 per cent implementation rate. The Third National Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings 2014-2017 was being implemented. Action against trafficking in human beings had focused on increasing the number of multidisciplinary teams and providing training to security forces, labour inspectors and the judiciary, as well as on improving mechanisms for the detection of potential victims.

25. Pursuant to a European Union directive, Portugal had broadened the definition of the crime of human trafficking to include all forms of exploitation. Legislation on combating organized crime and on covert operations had also been amended to apply to human trafficking. The low number of prosecutions and convictions for that crime was not the result of a lack of resources, but arose from the difficulty in proving crimes of great complexity, often committed by organized cross-border actors. That issue had been addressed by intensifying training for all those involved in investigations and for the judiciary. In 2013, the number of shelters for victims of human trafficking had been increased from one to three. All those shelters were run by State-funded NGOs.

26. The Fourth National Plan against Domestic Violence had been fully implemented and the Fifth National Plan to Prevent and Combat Domestic and Gender-based Violence 2014-2017 was already under way. The Fifth National Plan integrated the Third Programme of Action for the Prevention and Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation 2014-2017, and invested more heavily in prevention, on inter-service cooperation and victim support.

27. Strenuous efforts were being made to disseminate information on gender violence and to raise awareness among potential victims, as well as the community at large. European Union data indicated that awareness of domestic violence in Portugal was significantly above average. The country's capacity to provide psychosocial support had increased; in addition, security forces were given training on appropriate ways of handling domestic violence cases, and on proactive identification of situations of domestic violence.

28. Portugal had greatly increased its capacity to protect victims of domestic and gender-based violence. Not only had the remote assistance service been broadened, but the use of surveillance measures, namely, electronic monitoring bracelets for offenders, had increased; safe transportation for victims and their children was provided; support and shelter capacity had been reinforced, especially for emergency situations; and, lastly, a safe and supportive process was in place for those leaving shelters. A municipalities' network and the Institute for Housing and Urban Rehabilitation facilitated access to housing. The

Fifth National Plan reinforced prevention, and enhanced awareness-raising activities with a focus on the most vulnerable victims, including elderly persons and women in rural areas.

29. With regard to gender equality, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development 62 per cent of posts in the Portuguese civil service were occupied by women. Women occupied 38 per cent of high-ranking positions and 58 per cent of middle-ranking positions. A Council of Ministers resolution issued in 2012 required all State-owned companies to approve and implement an equality plan. The Framework Law for Regulatory Entities of 2013 provided that the position of Chairperson of the Board of Directors of such entities should be occupied by men and women in rotation, and required a minimum of 33 per cent female or male representation on such boards.

30. Wage discrimination based on gender was prohibited in Portugal. The average wage gap between men and women in Portugal, according to Eurostat, was 15.7 per cent in 2012, below the European Union average. A recent report commissioned by the Government on women in the labour market would be discussed with social partners. In March 2013, a Council of Ministers resolution had been issued, requiring the preparation of reports on pay disparities between men and women, in addition to action to combat those disparities.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

31. During the interactive dialogue, 74 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

32. The Czech Republic commended the efforts of Portugal to improve the access of Roma to education through the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities, and drew attention to the challenges involved in addressing the underlying social factors and ensuring the full cooperation of all stakeholders.

33. Ecuador commended the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It appreciated the priority given by Portugal in recent years to action against gender-based violence, human trafficking and female genital mutilation, in addition to action for the integration of Roma communities and in support of migrants, persons with disabilities and older persons.

34. Italy commended the action taken by Portugal to prevent trafficking in human beings and violence against women. It noted that the adoption of rigorous budgetary measures in response to the economic crisis might have undermined the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by the most vulnerable children and women.

35. Finland asked about measures taken to minimize the impact of austerity policies on the Roma community. Noting treaty body recommendations that greater attention should be paid to the tendency not to report domestic violence owing to traditional attitudes, it asked for further information on measures to investigate cases of domestic violence effectively and the impact thereof on women belonging to minority groups.

36. France welcomed the ratification by Portugal of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It commended the action being taken to counter racism and to address prison overcrowding. Since domestic violence persisted despite the measures introduced by the Government, France asked whether any additional measures were envisaged to tackle the problem.

37. Germany praised Portugal for the situation of human rights in the country and welcomed, in particular, the recently initiated judicial reform. It requested further information on the impact of the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma

Communities, in particular with regard to improvements in living conditions and access to social services, and on the main challenges.

38. Ghana commended Portugal for having issued a standing invitation to all special procedures. Referring to concerns expressed by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination regarding the limited number of complaints of racial discrimination, Ghana asked whether Portugal had assessed the impact of initiatives to promote the integration of immigrants and to fight racism and racial discrimination. It enquired about the findings of the Immigration Observatory study on racist speech, and asked whether Portugal intended to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

39. Greece commended the efforts of Portugal to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights and asked about recent policies in that regard. It requested further information on measures to combat discrimination against women in the workplace and their participation in public life.

40. The Holy See acknowledged improvements in areas such as the prevention of human trafficking and child labour, as well as racial discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia and the integration of immigrants and ethnic minorities. It commended Portugal on its ratification of a significant number of human rights and humanitarian instruments.

41. Hungary welcomed the steps taken to expedite the investigation of crimes of domestic violence and the establishment of special teams for that purpose. It was concerned that the right of access to a lawyer was not effective for many detainees, and noted that the prison population had increased significantly and that juveniles were frequently accommodated with adults.

42. India enquired about measures taken to ensure accountability in the prevention of discriminatory conduct and manifestations of racist stereotypes and prejudice by law enforcement officials. It asked whether the Social Emergency Programme addressed the impact of austerity measures on the poorest and most vulnerable groups.

43. Indonesia welcomed the action being taken by Portugal to combat racism and discrimination and to promote the integration of migrants and marginalized groups. It noted that the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities included measures in the areas of education, health, housing and employment, and comprised a cross-cutting dimension.

44. Iraq commended the measures and plans adopted by Portugal to end violence against women and children. It also welcomed the action taken to align national legislation with recently ratified international human rights instruments.

45. Ireland requested further information on the regular interaction between the National Human Rights Commission and civil society. While welcoming the measures taken to address discrimination against children, it noted that instances of discrimination continued to occur in practice. It considered that the criminalization of defamation was an inappropriate restriction on freedom of expression.

46. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed concern about the increase in racist websites, particularly those targeting Roma and immigrants, and the increase in cases of discrimination, harassment and abuse of members of ethnic minorities. In addition, it expressed concern about the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, and allegations of torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

47. Estonia encouraged Portugal to step up its efforts to ensure that the education system was inclusive, particularly for immigrants, ethnic minorities, girls and women. It welcomed

the fact that financial austerity measures had not disproportionately affected human rights structures. It encouraged Portugal to continue to promote human rights education, training and awareness-raising.

48. Kenya welcomed the ratification by Portugal of a number of human rights instruments and policy frameworks and encouraged it to ensure their effective implementation. It noted that certain human rights mechanisms had expressed concern with regard to disparities in the enjoyment of human rights by some minority groups.

49. Kyrgyzstan commended the Government of Portugal for its recognition of human rights as an essential component of socioeconomic development strategies. It welcomed the ratification by Portugal of a wide range of human rights and humanitarian treaties, as well as the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It commended Portugal on the progress achieved in protecting and promoting migrant rights.

50. Libya commended the action taken by Portugal to implement the recommendations of the first UPR and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It welcomed the steps taken to combat racial discrimination and to promote tolerance.

51. Malaysia commended the role of the National Human Rights Commission in coordinating and sharing information on human rights issues with the relevant stakeholders. It encouraged the Government to implement the human rights policies and programmes that it had adopted. It highlighted measures to combat trafficking in persons and to protect victims.

52. Mauritania commended the action taken by Portugal to combat violence against women and to eliminate racial discrimination, and praised the work of the High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue.

53. Mexico welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and commended its impressive efforts to submit pending reports to the treaty bodies. It noted the progress made in combating racial discrimination and discrimination based on sexual orientation, and the inclusion of such issues in the National Plan for Equality.

54. Montenegro welcomed the enhancement of the institutional and legislative human rights framework, the development of policy instruments and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. Noting that immigrants, foreigners and ethnic minorities continued to face discrimination, it enquired about the action taken to prevent further discrimination against vulnerable groups.

55. Morocco commended the importance attached to the prevention of racist and discriminatory acts targeting migrants and ethnic groups. It welcomed the action taken by the High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue, particularly the "Promotion of intercultural life at local level" initiative. It also commended the measures taken to promote economic, social and cultural rights.

56. Mozambique noted that Portugal accorded priority to economic, social and cultural rights and the right to education. It commended the fact that Portugal had implemented 97 per cent of the recommendations from the first UPR and noted that none of its periodic reports to the human rights treaty bodies were overdue.

57. Namibia noted that the National Human Rights Commission had strengthened dialogue, consultations and information-sharing with all human rights stakeholders in Portugal and with the country's international strategic partners. It noted with satisfaction that Portugal had ratified eight core human rights treaties and related optional protocols since 2009.

58. The Netherlands commended Portugal on its forward position on equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, as reflected in the Gender Identity Act. It

expressed concerns about the status of minorities, including Roma, particularly their access to public services, and about the duration of legal procedures and the conditions of detainees.

59. Nicaragua noted that Portugal had made considerable progress since the first UPR in the fight against racism and discrimination, in promoting human rights education and in countering domestic violence. In addition, it noted that Portugal played a leading role in promoting economic, social and cultural rights.

60. Norway expressed concern about the number of deaths among women as a result of domestic violence. It drew attention to overcrowding in prisons, allegations of ill-treatment of patients in a psychiatric prison hospital and concerns regarding high rates of suicide among inmates. A number of judgments handed down by the European Court of Human Rights had not been fully executed.

61. The delegation of Portugal recalled that the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities 2013-2020 incorporated numerous different strands of action aimed at promoting Roma rights. Under the Strategy, a survey had been conducted among municipalities to ascertain the living or housing conditions of those communities. The survey had indicated that 7 per cent of social housing was occupied by members of Roma communities, although they represented a mere 0.5 per cent of the total population. As far as education was concerned, Portugal was seeking to ensure that Roma communities had access to education of a good quality at all levels by means of various programmes, such as a programme aimed at raising awareness of the importance of learning and achieving good grades.

62. With regard to prison conditions, efforts had been made to rehabilitate and build prison facilities despite constraints in public funding arising from the commitments undertaken in the framework of the Economic and Financial Adjustment Programme. The need to promote alternative measures to imprisonment, such as home arrest with electronic monitoring, should be underscored, and legislation on that issue had been adopted in 2010. Juvenile offenders were housed in separate accommodation from adult prisoners. Legal aid was guaranteed to detainees as provided for under the Constitution and prisoners could meet with their defence lawyers in private.

63. Economic and social conditions in the context of the financial crisis had been addressed under the Social Emergency Programme adopted in 2011, and under other incentive programmes for the most vulnerable groups. Benefits and pensions had been increased and assisted housing had been provided for young people, among other measures. Maintaining support for NGOs had been prioritized and a number of programmes had been funded. Support for solidarity institutions had increased considerably between 2009 and 2013, despite the financial crisis.

64. While Portugal was unable to ratify the Migrant Workers Convention as a member of the European Union, the rights of migrant workers were strongly protected under its national laws.

65. The training of law enforcement officials was a priority for Portugal, which had established human rights training centres and had incorporated human rights in the curriculum of the national police force.

66. Both of the current national action plans for equality and combating violence against women envisaged specific measures for particular vulnerable and minority groups. The increase in the number of domestic violence complaints was a positive sign of greater awareness of the issue, which itself was a result of public campaigns and of specific training provided to law enforcement officials. A number of efforts had contributed to the

increase in complaints, particularly efforts to enable and empower women to make complaints. The greatest concern was reserved for cases that did not come to light.

67. The Fifth National Plan for Gender Equality, Citizenship and Non-discrimination provided for enhanced measures relating to gender equality in the labour market. In addition, existing bodies such as the Commission for Equality in Labour and Employment were able to receive complaints. Complaints about work conditions could be submitted to the Labour Inspectorate, which was able to apply the necessary sanctions.

68. The Parity Act of 2006 had helped to increase the participation of women in public life through the introduction of a quota policy. The increase was evident in the relevant statistics.

69. In connection with human trafficking, a system for flagging and identifying victims had helped to tackle the phenomenon more effectively. The current Third National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings also targeted labour exploitation of and trafficking in children. Efforts to address the issues of child labour and of street children had produced tangible results.

70. Paraguay welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the appointment of an Ombudsman. It commended Portugal on the elaboration of policies to counter racial discrimination and encouraged it to continue taking resolute action to prevent discrimination against immigrants and ethnic minorities in access to housing, employment, education and health care.

71. The Philippines welcomed the adoption by Portugal of human rights policy instruments, including national plans to combat human trafficking and gender-based violence and to integrate immigrants and the Roma community. It urged Portugal to promote and protect the human rights of migrants in addition to those of its own people.

72. Poland expressed appreciation for the efforts of Portugal to comply with recommendations on equality and non-discrimination, and commended it on measures taken to combat domestic violence, including the adoption of a national plan.

73. Qatar welcomed the adoption by Portugal of comprehensive plans and strategies for human rights and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It commended Portugal on the adoption of the Second National Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings and on legislative amendments expanding the concept of trafficking in persons to include begging, slavery and exploitation in other criminal activities.

74. The Republic of Korea expressed appreciation for the endeavours of Portugal to improve human rights, combat discrimination, prevent violence against women, promote the rights of the child and establish the National Human Rights Commission. Portugal had displayed outstanding leadership in promoting human rights internationally. It invited Portugal to pay closer attention to the negative impact of austerity measures on the most vulnerable groups.

75. The Republic of Moldova commended Portugal on its commitment to human rights and its engagement with international human rights mechanisms. It expressed appreciation for the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, and invited Portugal to elaborate on the objectives and priorities of the Second Plan for Immigrant Integration. It noted the low number of convictions for human trafficking.

76. The Russian Federation expressed concern about deteriorating detention conditions, reduced safety resulting from cuts in the number of prison officers, and prison overcrowding. It also expressed concern about the duration of legal proceedings, and noted that trafficking in human beings continued to be an acute problem. It commended the campaign to combat domestic violence.

77. Senegal praised the progress made by Portugal in implementing the recommendations of the first UPR. It welcomed the adoption of policies that promoted the economic, social and cultural rights of the elderly and of persons with disabilities.

78. Serbia welcomed the progress made by Portugal in implementing the recommendations of the first review cycle. It commended the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the ratification of international human rights instruments including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It acknowledged the efforts of Portugal to combat racism and promote the socioeconomic integration of migrants.

79. Sierra Leone commended the establishment of the human rights mechanism. It was important to ensure that austerity measures did not adversely affect vulnerable groups or the implementation of existing human rights obligations. Sierra Leone applauded the call by Portugal for States to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

80. Slovakia appreciated the commitment of Portugal to human rights and the rights of the child and commended it on its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and other international human rights instruments. It welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, and asked what further human rights indicators would be developed by that body.

81. Slovenia welcomed the progress made by Portugal in combating violence against women and, in particular, the legislative amendments introduced in order to extend the concept of domestic violence and the measures taken to reduce social acceptance of domestic and gender-based violence. It expressed appreciation for positive developments in the field of sexual orientation and gender balance.

82. South Africa encouraged Portugal to continue sponsoring Human Rights Council resolutions and welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and human rights policy instruments on equality, trafficking, female genital mutilation and immigrant integration.

83. Spain commended Portugal on its efforts to combat domestic violence through the adoption of national plans. Although Portuguese law guaranteed equal pay for men and women, gender disparities persisted. Despite the fact that the national education system was highly inclusive, Roma continued to suffer discrimination.

84. The State of Palestine commended the efforts of Portugal to implement previous UPR recommendations. It welcomed the innovative measures taken to promote the integration of vulnerable communities and to fight racial discrimination. It also welcomed legislative and other measures aimed at combating domestic violence.

85. Thailand expressed appreciation for the implementation by Portugal of the recommendations of the first UPR and its ratification of human rights instruments. It commended Portugal on initiatives concerning non-discrimination against children in respect of access to education and health care, including migrant children in irregular situations. It commended the focus of Portugal on gender equality and on combating violence against women.

86. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia welcomed the ratification by Portugal of international instruments and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It expressed appreciation for the efforts of Portugal to promote economic, social and cultural rights, and its creation of a social emergency plan.

87. Timor-Leste noted the positive steps taken by Portugal to promote human rights, and its efforts to implement the recommendations of the previous UPR. It commended Portugal on maintaining its human rights obligations throughout the financial crisis, and on its creation of a social emergency plan for vulnerable groups.

88. Tunisia noted the progress made by Portugal since the first UPR review, in particular the creation of a National Human Rights Commission, the ratification of international and regional instruments and the adoption of strategies and action plans to promote human rights. Tunisia encouraged Portugal to strengthen efforts to combat racism and xenophobia.

89. Turkey welcomed the establishment of the Portuguese National Human Rights Commission. It commended Portugal on the steps taken to overcome the economic crisis and asked what measures were in place to improve prison capacity, following the easing of the financial crisis. It asked what steps had been taken to combat racism and discrimination, especially for Roma and immigrants, and what assistance was provided to victims of human trafficking.

90. Ukraine requested further information on the Third Plan for Immigrant Integration and on experience in implementing previous such plans. It asked whether immigrants were subject to professional constraints and enquired about the impact of the economic crisis on immigrant employment, in addition to putting other questions concerning equal pay for immigrant workers.

91. The United Arab Emirates commended Portugal on its implementation of all of the accepted recommendations from the first UPR and on the progress achieved in respect of social justice. It requested further information about the results of the Social Emergency Plan, launched in October 2011.

92. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the commitment of Portugal to ratifying human rights treaties, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It was pleased to note the fourth and fifth national plans against domestic and gender-based violence, and asked what measures had been taken to reduce social acceptance of those forms of violence.

93. The United States of America commended Portugal for its strong human rights record, although it expressed concern at reports of excessive use of force by the police and of abuse and mistreatment of prisoners by prison guards. It expressed concern that compulsory arbitration should only be imposed on workers and employer organizations in cases of acute national or local crisis, consistent with the principle of voluntary negotiation as set out in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98).

94. Uruguay noted the ratification by Portugal of international human rights instruments and its introduction of policies in numerous fields, as well as its establishment of an Ombudsman as a mechanism for the prevention of torture. Uruguay wished to learn more about the assistance provided to child victims of trafficking and how Portugal had maintained economic, social and cultural rights during the economic crisis.

95. Uzbekistan expressed concern regarding manifestations of xenophobia and racism as well as discrimination against immigrants and foreigners, particularly Roma and persons of African descent, in education, health care, employment and housing. There had also been

allegations of abuse and ill-treatment by police officers and prison guards, and reports of overcrowding and poor health conditions in prisons, high detainee mortality rates and drug abuse by detainees.

96. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended Portugal on the measures taken to promote inclusive education despite the economic crisis, and on the introduction of the fourth and fifth plans against domestic and gender-based violence. It expressed concern about the discrimination suffered by migrants, persons of foreign origin and ethnic minorities and noted that there had been an increase in racism and racial discrimination.

97. Viet Nam commended the commitment of Portugal to promoting human rights, especially against the backdrop of the economic crisis. It appreciated the adoption of the Social Emergency Plan to support vulnerable individuals. It noted the achievements of Portugal in combating discrimination against women, ethnic minorities and migrants.

98. Albania commended the ratification by Portugal of human rights instruments, and welcomed the legal amendments adopted extending the concept of domestic violence. It commended Portugal on the adoption of a national strategy for the integration of Roma communities, prepared following broad consultation.

99. Algeria welcomed the efforts of Portugal to implement the recommendations of the previous UPR, including by the creation of a National Human Rights Commission. It noted that Portugal had also ratified international treaties and adopted domestic policies on combating violence against women and human trafficking, and that it had elaborated a disability strategy

100. Angola welcomed the continuing commitment of Portugal to human rights, and the creation of the National Human Rights Commission. It noted the adoption by Portugal of measures to promote and protect the rights of immigrants and ethnic minorities and to combat racial discrimination, and commended the introduction of the Second Plan for Immigrant Integration and the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities 2013-2020.

101. Argentina commended Portugal on its ratification of international instruments, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and on its introduction of the Second Plan for Immigrant Integration. Argentina would be particularly interested to learn about the initiatives taken to combat racial discrimination and to integrate migrants and marginalized groups.

102. Australia welcomed the priority given by Portugal to the prevention and investigation of domestic violence and noted the adoption of the national plans against domestic and gender-based violence. It expressed concern about reports of increased domestic violence against elderly people and of ill-treatment of persons detained by the police and in prison. It acknowledged the efforts expended by Portugal in order to address the discrimination and societal disadvantage experienced by Roma communities.

103. Bangladesh said that Portugal was known for its commitment to human rights. It commended Portugal for hosting migrants and for promoting managed migration, which provided a good example for other countries in the region. Nevertheless, reports of ill-treatment of migrants continued to give cause for concern, as did the possibility that the financial crisis could give rise to an increase in poverty and racial discrimination.

104. The Plurinational State of Bolivia recognized the progress made by Portugal since the first UPR cycle, and noted its ratification of international human rights treaties. It encouraged Portugal to continue to strengthen the protection of human rights through its institutions, standards and public policies.

105. Brazil expressed appreciation for the ratification by Portugal of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture in 2013, and for the appointment of an Ombudsman as a national preventive mechanism. It welcomed the measures taken to combat domestic violence. The innovative drug policy of Portugal, founded on values of humanism and participation, was noteworthy. Brazil urged Portugal to strive to ensure that crises did not affect vulnerable groups. Cuts to the water supply in Lisbon gave cause for concern.

106. Bulgaria welcomed the efforts of Portugal to implement recommendations from the first UPR cycle. It noted that combating violence against women and domestic and gender-based violence were priorities for Portugal, and expressed appreciation for the introduction of legislative amendments to extend the concept of domestic violence.

107. Cabo Verde noted that Portugal had created a national committee for coordination and follow-up in respect of the plans and measures put in place as a result of its accession to international human rights instruments. It commended Portugal on the implementation of recommendations made during the first UPR cycle, and on the priority given to combating gender-based and domestic violence and to human rights education.

108. Canada asked what the specific results of the Fourth National Plan against Domestic and Gender-Based Violence 2011–2013 had been, what progress was under way for the fifth iteration of the plan (2014–2017) and what specific benchmarks had been identified. It welcomed the introduction of measures designed to improve human rights, including the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission and enhanced dialogue with civil society.

109. Chile appreciated the efforts made by Portugal to improve human rights, to minimize the effects of the economic crisis and to accede to international human rights instruments. It noted the creation of the National Human Rights Commission, which had improved coordination between public authorities and strengthened dialogue with civil society, and the measures taken to reduce early school leaving rates.

110. China recognized the efforts made by Portugal to deal with the impact of the international financial crisis on its economic and social development, and to guarantee the rights of vulnerable groups. Portugal had formulated national plans to combat domestic violence and human trafficking and to ensure access to education for all children. China expressed the hope that Portugal would continue to combat racism and support marginalized groups.

111. Costa Rica congratulated Portugal on its efforts to reach and maintain the highest standards in human rights, despite economic difficulties. It welcomed the creation of the National Human Rights Commission, the ratification by Portugal of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and its efforts to introduce policies on migrants and to combat racism and discrimination.

112. Côte d'Ivoire noted the action taken by Portugal since the previous UPR, including setting up the National Human Rights Commission. It welcomed the policies introduced to combat discrimination and racial and religious hatred and to promote the integration of minorities and migrants, in addition to the measures taken to combat domestic violence, to protect children and to improve the situation of persons with disabilities.

113. Egypt commended Portugal on the launch of the Programme of Action for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation and on increasing capacity to prosecute in cases of violence against women. It noted the concerns of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination about racist and xenophobic speech. Egypt invited Portugal to share its best practices in ensuring respect for economic, social and cultural rights and in

preventing retrogression at times of economic decline. It also invited Portugal to comment on best practices and challenges relating to the enjoyment of human rights by young people.

114. The Democratic Republic of the Congo noted the efforts expended by Portugal to implement recommendations from the first UPR, including by creating the National Human Rights Commission and other institutions and ratifying international human rights instruments. Portugal had promoted human rights education, taken action against racism and domestic violence and promoted social integration for migrants. The Democratic Republic of the Congo asked what the impact of the economic crisis had been on the implementation of the recommendations.

115. The delegation, responding in brief to a number of questions, said that the number of short-term employment contracts for women was falling in comparison with the number for men. Female participation in the labour market in Portugal was the highest in Europe. Despite the financial crisis, the difference in employment rates between men and women was less than in 2008.

116. Portugal was in compliance with the recommendations of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings of the Council of Europe and had introduced the relevant amendments to the Criminal Code. The national legislation was fully compliant with the European Union directive on human trafficking. Specific measures undertaken included awareness-raising activities and campaigns targeting the most vulnerable groups, particularly children. The number of protection teams and centres had been increased, despite the economic crisis.

117. In response to concerns expressed relating to domestic violence, actions to shed light on hidden violence in the family and to protect children and the elderly should be highlighted. A joint campaign proposed by Portugal, entitled "I stand up to violence" (*Contra a violência eu dou a cara*), had been implemented throughout all Portuguese-speaking countries. Never before had there been so many measures to protect victims. The number of convictions for domestic violence was increasing year on year. There were 119 shelters for victims of domestic violence and 132 welcome and care centres providing victims with social, psychological and legal support in line with the Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. A further 113 places had been added for the emergency reception of victims.

118. Women represented 5.6 per cent of the prison population and were accommodated under appropriate conditions. Pregnancy and birth were supported, and facilities for children up to the age of 3 years were available. Portugal had had national plans to address domestic violence since 1999. The measures envisaged under the current plan included increasing the capacity of local authorities to prevent violence, and programmes to prevent perpetrators from reoffending.

119. The importance of human rights indicators should be underscored. As suggested by OHCHR, Portugal had already developed national indicators on the right to education and the right to liberty and security of the person. It should be noted that the Ombudsman's budget had been maintained, and would continue to be maintained, despite the financial crisis. In respect of action plans, it should also be recalled that one of the aims of the creation of the National Human Rights Commission was specifically to ensure coordination and coherence in the relevant sectorial action plans.

120. In connection with access to education, particularly for the most vulnerable, it should be noted that more opportunities were being provided for lifelong learning for adults over 55 years of age, particularly those with disabilities. Moreover, the Government had invested in complementary support, so that children with special needs could attend regular schools without segregation.

121. In connection with questions related to racism and discrimination against immigrants, the delegation said that Portugal wished to address racism in its totality without singling out any group. Those determined to have perpetrated acts of discrimination were liable to criminal prosecution under the Constitution, and racist motivation was addressed in the Criminal Code, where it could be considered an aggravating circumstance. Two plans to combat discrimination against migrants had been implemented and the results measured in statistical terms. In addition, measures such as the establishment of the Immigration Observatory had been taken.

122. With regard to the issue of discrimination against migrants in employment, the burden fell on the employer to prove the absence of discrimination in cases of complaint. Discrimination was categorized as a crime and the authorities could provide the necessary compensation to victims. Special services for unemployed immigrants, including vocational training and programmes, facilitated the social integration of migrants.

123. The existing law respected the principle of non-refoulement of refugees and asylum seekers. In practice, that meant that no one could be removed from Portuguese territory before a final judicial decision had been handed down in the case. Asylum requests from minors were submitted immediately to the family courts, and a centre for refugee children housed them.

124. The current review was being held at a time when Portugal was going through a deep economic crisis. It was hoped that the country's efforts to mitigate the effects of the crisis on vulnerable groups had been demonstrated. The Government and the National Human Rights Commission would do everything possible to implement the accepted recommendations, and would submit a mid-term report as part of the UPR process. The UPR mechanism played a positive role in the achievement of human rights worldwide, and the implementation of its recommendations would be felt in Portugal during the coming four years.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

125. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below enjoy the support of Portugal:**

125.1 **Ensure that civil society representatives are accorded full and active participation in follow-up activities to the universal periodic review (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

125.2 **Harmonize its domestic laws in order to give effect and prominence to international human rights treaties (Namibia);**

125.3 **Continue efforts in the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights (Greece);**

125.4 **Continue presenting initiatives aimed at promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural human rights (Qatar);**

125.5 **Continue to enhance engagement with its regional and international partners to strengthen its capacity for the protection and promotion of human rights (Philippines);**

125.6 **Continue to take measures in promoting women's participation in political affairs (Greece);**

** Conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

125.7 **Make all efforts to increase its overseas development assistance to bring it more in line with the promised target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income, thus facilitating the promotion of human rights in poor countries (Sierra Leone).**

126. **The following recommendations enjoy the support of Portugal, which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:**

126.1 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Albania);**

126.2 **Consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);**

126.3 **Continue its efforts in awareness and education on human rights (Morocco);**

126.4 **Continue strengthening measures towards equality, taking into account the situation of disadvantaged groups for which positive discrimination is recommended (Algeria);**

126.5 **Strengthen the actions which ensure the effective implementation of the legislation against discrimination, especially that affecting women immigrants and women members of minority groups (Argentina);**

126.6 **Continue its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination (Qatar);**

126.7 **Continue promoting gender equality in order to explicitly eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

126.8 **Continue efforts for the promotion of women's rights (Nicaragua);**

126.9 **Increase the policies which permit legislative provisions for non-discrimination between men and women in employment to be reflected in practice, especially in relation to differences in pay and the prevalence of temporary employment contracts among women (Paraguay);**

126.10 **Take measures to combat discrimination against women in recruitment, employment, career advancement and pay (Slovenia);**

126.11 **Continue providing the means necessary to avoid pay differences based on gender (Spain);**

126.12 **Adopt further measures to reduce the gender pay gap in all sectors of the economy (Viet Nam);**

126.13 **Strengthen preventive measures to combat all forms of racial discrimination (Algeria);**

126.14 **Eliminate all forms of discrimination against Roma, migrants and asylum seekers (Bangladesh);**

126.15 **Continue its efforts to combat racial discrimination, including through support to institutions charged with promotion and protection of human rights and fighting racial discrimination (Poland);**

126.16 **Continue to improve integration and fight racial discrimination against less-favoured communities, including by taking further measures to improve the access of immigrants, foreigners and ethnic minorities to adequate housing, education, public services and employment (State of Palestine);**

126.17 **Further ameliorate the integration process of immigrants and combat all forms of discrimination against them (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

126.18 **Take effective measures to prevent any form of discrimination and racism (Uzbekistan);**

126.19 **Strengthen measures to combat racial discrimination, in particular against Portuguese citizens of African descent (Senegal);**

126.20 **Condemn racist and xenophobic speech by politicians and promote tolerance and diversity (Bangladesh);**

126.21 **Continue work in the fight to eradicate racism, incitement to racial hatred and all forms of discrimination, especially against migrants (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

126.22 **Further implement effective measures to prevent and prosecute manifestations of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, as well as to promote the human rights of vulnerable groups, including migrants, Roma and people of African descent (Brazil);**

126.23 **Step up monitoring of the Internet to prevent it from being used to disseminate racist or xenophobic comments and material, with a view to prosecuting the perpetrators of such acts (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

126.24 **Take effective measures to prevent and prosecute manifestations of racism, xenophobia and intolerance (Kyrgyzstan);**

126.25 **Condemn racist and xenophobic speech by politicians and promote tolerance and diversity (Kyrgyzstan);**

126.26 **Condemn more vigorously racist and xenophobic speeches made by political leaders and further promote tolerance and diversity (Tunisia);**

126.27 **Penalize the use of xenophobic and racist rhetoric and prohibit organizations which promote or incite to racial discrimination (Uzbekistan);**

126.28 **Reinforce the mechanisms for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance which affect migrants, foreigners and ethnic minorities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

126.29 **Continue applying measures to combat trafficking in human beings, covering areas such as prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators (Spain);**

126.30 **Continue to collect specific data and maintain efforts to standardize reporting and data collection concerning victims of domestic violence, including through the creation of a website and a database (Bulgaria);**

126.31 **Continue to apply measures to combat gender-based violence, including programmes of prevention which promote the elimination of gender stereotypes and the empowerment of women (Chile);**

126.32 **Continue preventing and combating violence against women, including domestic violence (Montenegro);**

126.33 **Continue efforts to reduce social acceptance of domestic and gender-based violence (Norway);**

126.34 **Adopt a national strategy in the field of domestic violence (Russian Federation);**

126.35 **Ensure that victims of domestic violence have access to adequate counselling and protection, including by the provision of shelters for women victims, and that acts are effectively investigated and perpetrators brought to justice (Sierra Leone);**

126.36 **Pursue its efforts aiming at preventing and combating gender-based violence, particularly by providing training, awareness campaigns and assistance to victims (Timor-Leste);**

126.37 **Continue the measures necessary to ensure that women victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence have access to effective means of prevention and protection and that perpetrators are brought to justice (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

126.38 **Ensure full implementation of its national plans against domestic and gender-based violence to effectively reduce social acceptance of violence against women, including domestic violence, promote equality between women and men, eliminate stereotypes and take measures to raise awareness of existing mechanisms to prevent and combat domestic violence, including by ensuring thorough investigation and prosecution of all acts of violence against women (Canada);**

126.39 **Adopt measures to continue combating domestic violence within the framework of the fifth National Plan, including through the establishment of effective procedures for reporting cases and combating stereotypes and misogynistic attitudes (Mexico);**

126.40 **Continue to take steps, in particular within the Action Plan, to combat and prevent violence and to ensure that victims have access to means of protection, that acts of domestic violence are effectively investigated and that perpetrators are brought to justice (Poland);**

126.41 **Continue to take steps, in particular within the national Action Plan against domestic violence, and ensure that victims have effective access to complaint mechanisms (State of Palestine);**

126.42 **Take further steps to combat and prevent domestic violence and ensure that victims have effective access to complaints mechanisms (Albania);**

126.43 **Continue strengthening its efforts to combat domestic violence in all its forms, especially facilitating access by victims to mechanisms for reporting cases (Spain);**

126.44 **Continue the efforts to improve the access to education for the children and youth from Roma communities as the United Nations Economic, Scientific and Cultural Organization has also suggested (Finland);**

126.45 **Continue to strengthen national policies for the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants, in particular to combat racial discrimination (Angola);**

126.46 **Secure equal access to public services for migrants and minorities, including Roma (Netherlands);**

126.47 **Create appropriate conditions for the full realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of Roma and people of African descent (Uzbekistan);**

126.48 **Pursue measures to include and protect minorities (Côte d'Ivoire);**

126.49 **Continue working for the inclusion of the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups in the social programmes promoted by the Government (Nicaragua);**

126.50 **Ensure the promotion of the economic, social and cultural rights of Roma, and the implementation of policies affecting them (Albania);**

126.51 **Take further steps to improve access to housing, education and employment for Roma communities (Australia);**

126.52 **Continue pursuing appropriate, efficient policies under the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities aimed at further improving the access of Roma to education and, based on the evaluation of the impact of the existing policies, consider the adoption of additional measures (Czech Republic);**

126.53 **Ensure that all measures and policies affecting Roma communities are designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated with their full participation (India);**

126.54 **Continue its efforts in implementing the various measures in the areas of education, health, housing, employment and a cross-cutting dimension with a view to further promoting and protecting the rights of persons belonging to minorities and countering the discrimination and social exclusion faced by Roma communities (Indonesia);**

126.55 **Adopt special measures to alleviate and remedy disparities in the enjoyment of human rights affecting vulnerable groups, which include immigrants, foreigners and ethnic minorities such as the Ciganos and Roma communities (Kenya);**

126.56 **Continue concentrating efforts for the inclusion of pupils of Roma origin in the educational system (Spain);**

126.57 **Step up its effort in improving access to education for children from Ciganos and Roma communities and continue to combat racial stereotypes against those communities (Thailand);**

126.58 **Continue and strengthen educational measures which promote a more integrated system of education that favours migrants, ethnic minorities, women and girls and the Roma community in particular (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

126.59 **Continue its efforts in the promotion and dissemination of best practices in the sphere of intercultural dialogue (Morocco);**

126.60 **Continue to strengthen programmes of prevention of domestic violence, especially against children and elderly persons (Chile).**

127. **The following recommendations will be examined by Portugal, which will provide responses in due time but no later than the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, in September 2014:**

127.1 **Consider and concur with the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to ratify the amendments to article 8, paragraph 6 of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Namibia);**

127.2 **Continue harmonizing its national laws with its obligations under international human rights law, with a view to giving priority in this regard to**

the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Egypt);

127.3 **Rapidly complete the alignment of national legislation with the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Tunisia);**

127.4 **Fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute, by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the International Criminal Court and ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute (Estonia);**

127.5 **Fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute, through the incorporation of provisions to fully and promptly cooperate with the International Criminal Court (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

127.6 **Expand the human rights education campaign to law enforcement officers, especially on the rights of women, children, the elderly and minorities (Viet Nam);**

127.7 **Ensure that adequate resources are allocated for the effective implementation of its comprehensive national human rights action plans (Philippines);**

127.8 **Reinforce the Ombudsman, as a national institution compliant with the Paris Principles, with legislative measures, human and financial resources (Uruguay);**

127.9 **Redouble its efforts to fight racial discrimination, including through support to relevant NGOs (Bangladesh);**

127.10 **Remain steadfast in pursuing its preventive and repressive programme to combat discrimination against migrants and asylum seekers (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

127.11 **Consider drafting a national action plan on addressing the question of racism and racial discrimination faced by persons of African descent (Egypt);**

127.12 **Improve the effectiveness and accessibility of domestic remedies against racial discrimination (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

127.13 **Redouble its efforts to fight racial discrimination, including through support to relevant NGOs, and further recommend special measures for vulnerable groups, including Ciganos, Roma and people of African descent (South Africa);**

127.14 **Strengthen its efforts to combat racial discrimination, especially in the judicial system (Slovenia);**

127.15 **Increase support for the Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

127.16 **Take strong action to address hate speech and racial discrimination in access to housing, education and employment of ethnic minorities and intensify awareness-raising training for law enforcement officials (Sierra Leone);**

127.17 **Adopt a law explicitly making racial motivation an aggravating circumstance for crimes and offences (France);**

127.18 **Ensure that reports of the use of excessive force or ill-treatment by law enforcement officials are fully investigated (Australia);**

127.19 **Intensify training and adequate supervision of alleged cases of ill-treatment by the police forces (Cabo Verde);**

127.20 **Take specific steps to ensure prompt and thorough investigations of all allegations of excessive use of force and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials, including police and prison guards (Canada);**

127.21 **Deliver a clear message to all prison managers and staff that all forms of ill-treatment are unacceptable and will result in sanctions (United States of America);**

127.22 **Investigate all ill-treatment and other wrongdoing by law enforcement officials and bring the perpetrators to justice (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

127.23 **Strengthen efforts to ensure that investigations into allegations of ill-treatment of detainees are timely and effective (United States of America);**

127.24 **Investigate all allegations of illegal use of force and ill-treatment by police and security forces, including against migrants, Roma and people of African descent (Uzbekistan);**

127.25 **Strengthen its efforts to protect the basic rights of inmates in vulnerable situations and ensure that inmates have access to and knowledge of the proper complaint mechanisms (Norway);**

127.26 **Continue strengthening the mechanisms to supervise the observance of human rights of the inmates, with the aim of preventing ill-treatment, and handle all complaints of torture and other ill-treatment in a timely manner (Italy);**

127.27 **Expedite judicial processes so that cases stay within the statute of limitations, and improve conditions in penitentiary facilities (Netherlands);**

127.28 **Pursue efforts to combat overcrowding in prisons (France);**

127.29 **Support, through legislation, non-custodial measures as an alternative to imprisonment to reduce overcrowding in prisons (Hungary);**

127.30 **Undertake measures to avoid overcrowding in prisons, including, when appropriate, alternatives of social reintegration instead of imprisonment, as well as avoiding prolonged periods of pretrial detention (Mexico);**

127.31 **Consider increasing the use of non-custodial measures to reduce overcrowding (Norway);**

127.32 **Adopt a national strategy for the improvement of the situation in the prison system (Russian Federation);**

127.33 **Adopt comprehensive measures to address the problem of overcrowding, prevent suicides among inmates and improve health conditions in prisons (Uzbekistan);**

127.34 **Redouble its efforts with a focus on trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation and special focus on trafficking in children (India);**

127.35 **Ensure the enforcement of the legal framework for the prosecution of human traffickers and appropriate assistance for victims of trafficking in human beings (Republic of Moldova);**

127.36 **Find possibilities to strengthen the oversight of governmental and law-enforcement agencies in the field of trafficking in human beings (Russian Federation);**

127.37 **Further consolidate its efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Malaysia);**

127.38 **Continue to increase community awareness of domestic violence and give particular attention to the needs of families caring for older persons (Australia);**

127.39 **Pay special attention to the situation of domestic violence and its evolution, particularly because of the possible impact of the economic difficulties on families (Costa Rica);**

127.40 **Intensify efforts to make its justice system more efficient (Norway);**

127.41 **Improve the national legislation so as to speed up the judicial process (Russian Federation);**

127.42 **Incorporate the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) into its programme on adequate treatment for women detainees, especially young pregnant women (Thailand);**

127.43 **Continue with actions aimed at safeguarding due process in all judicial instances (Ecuador);**

127.44 **Call upon the competent authorities to ensure the right of access to a lawyer by detained persons (Hungary);**

127.45 **Ensure that human rights violations by police and prison officials, particularly cases of torture and other ill-treatment, are investigated and do not go unpunished (Costa Rica);**

127.46 **Pursue efforts to prevent abuses committed by law enforcement forces and to improve prison conditions (Côte d'Ivoire);**

127.47 **Provide, in accordance with its obligations under international human rights law, the widest possible protection and support for the family, as the natural and fundamental unit of society (Egypt);**

127.48 **Foster and safeguard the family, based upon the stable relationship between a man and a woman, as the natural and fundamental unit of society (Holy See);**

127.49 **Take all necessary measures to guarantee the protection of the family, and lay down an efficient system for families in order to guarantee the enhancement of social cohesion and prevent family disintegration and social fracturing (Mauritania);**

127.50 **Support and protect the family as a fundamental and natural unit of society (Uzbekistan);**

127.51 **Take measures in order to allow the adoption of children by same-sex couples (Brazil);**

127.52 **Decriminalize defamation and place it under the Civil Code in accordance with international standards (Ireland);**

127.53 **Strengthen measures to assist families most in need in the context of the economic and financial crisis (Angola);**

127.54 **Further promote employment (China);**

127.55 **Mitigate the effects of the financial crisis on its efforts to address the issues of child poverty and street children (Malaysia);**

127.56 **Conduct an analysis of the effects of the crisis on human rights, especially on socioeconomic rights, with particular focus on the situation of vulnerable groups such as refugees, migrants, Roma, children, women and elderly people (Turkey);**

127.57 **Remain committed to implementing its human rights obligations and minimizing the impact of the crisis, particularly on the most vulnerable (Ukraine);**

127.58 **Continue protecting vulnerable groups from the consequences of the austerity measures undertaken by the Portuguese Government in the framework of the economic and financial adjustment programme adopted in the past few years (United Arab Emirates);**

127.59 **Establish and implement, based on the performance assessment of the October 2011 Social Emergency Plan, effective economic strategies for sustainable recovery and development that integrate elements of poverty alleviation and protection of human rights (Viet Nam);**

127.60 **Amend the Labour Code so that compulsory arbitration may only be imposed on worker and employer organizations in the case of national or local crisis (United States of America);**

127.61 **Improve its social security system and provide necessary social protection to vulnerable groups (China);**

127.62 **Continue the protection of women, migrants, persons with disabilities and elderly people, groups which are particularly vulnerable in this moment of economic and financial crisis (Holy See);**

127.63 **Adequately protect those social groups particularly vulnerable to budget cuts, as is the case of children and older persons (Cabo Verde);**

127.64 **Take relevant measures in order to prevent the possible negative impacts of the austerity measures on the human rights situation for the most vulnerable groups, particularly children (Republic of Korea);**

127.65 **Continue prioritizing the adoption of relatively low-cost, targeted arrangements for the best protection of children's rights (Italy);**

127.66 **Provide primary and secondary education for all children, irrespective of their legal status (Holy See);**

127.67 **Continue its efforts to ensure that all children enjoy equal rights without discrimination (Ireland);**

127.68 **Pursue efforts to combat illiteracy, working in particular to promote access to school for disadvantaged children (Senegal);**

127.69 **Pursue its efforts to combat illiteracy and establish an effective system for adult education and training (South Africa);**

127.70 **Make ragging of students an offence and conduct awareness-raising campaigns against ragging (France);**

127.71 **Further strengthen activities towards inclusive education of children with disabilities (Montenegro);**

127.72 Continue its efforts aimed at the adoption of legislative measures to enhance equality and combat the discrimination suffered by Portuguese citizens of African descent (Libya);

127.73 Ensure sufficient budgetary allocation for the effective implementation of the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities 2013-2020 (India);

127.74 Continue to implement the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities and ensure that it is appropriately and responsibly funded (Slovakia);

127.75 Strengthen efforts for the protection of the rights of unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum (Ecuador);

127.76 Continue the measures implemented to ensure the right to water and sanitation within the framework of General Assembly resolution 64/292 (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

127.77 Consider the promotion and protection of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

127.78 Continue to strengthen and provide further resources to the National Commission for the Protection of Children and Young People at Risk in order to protect the rights of neglected and abused children (Timor-Leste);

127.79 Strengthen the measures aimed at guaranteeing and reinforcing the rights of older persons (Argentina).

128. The recommendations listed below were noted by Portugal:

128.1 Consider positively the ratification of the Migrant Workers Convention (Mexico);

128.2 Consider ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention (Philippines, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Plurinational State of Bolivia);

128.3 Ratify the Migrant Workers Convention (Paraguay, Uruguay, Algeria, Albania);

128.4 Ratify the Migrant Convention and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Islamic Republic of Iran);

128.5 Develop a comprehensive national plan for human rights which will permit the fulfilment of the obligations arising from the international instruments to which Portugal is a party (Uruguay).

129. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Portugal was headed by H.E. Mr. Bruno Maçães, Secretary of State for European Affairs and H.E. Ms. Teresa Morais, Secretary of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Equality and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Ambassador Pedro Nuno Bártolo, Permanent Representative, Geneva;
- Mr. Rui Vinhas, Deputy Director-General of External Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Francisca Souto Moura, Adviser, Cabinet of H.E. the Secretary of State for European Affairs;
- Ms. Teresa Cadavez, Adviser, Cabinet of H.E. the Secretary of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Equality;
- Ms. Maria João Leal, Adviser, Cabinet of the Secretary of State Assistant to the Minister of Economy;
- Mr. Vasco Malta, Legal Adviser, Cabinet of the High Commissioner for Migration;
- Ms. Fátima Duarte, President of the Commission of Citizenship and Gender Equality;
- Mr. Vítor Reis, President of the Institute of Housing and Urban Rehabilitation, Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy;
- Mr. Paulo Simões, Director of Services of Prices and Stability, Directorate-General of Economic Activities, , Ministry of Economy;
- Ms. Janine Costa, Director of Coordination of the Cooperation and International Relations, Ministry of Education and Science;
- Mr. Manuel Albano, National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Commission of Citizenship and Gender Equality;
- Ms. Manuela Teixeira Pinto, Counsellor, Permanent Mission, Geneva;
- Ms. Vera Ávila, Head of the Human Rights Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Odete Severino, Head of Unit, International Relations, Office of Strategy, Planning, Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security;
- Mr. Nuno Cabral, Permanent Mission, Geneva;
- Ms. Catarina Afonso, Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Bruno Lai, International Relations of the General Directorate of Internal Administration, Ministry of Internal Administration;
- Mr. Eurico Pedrosa, , Directorate-General of Justice Policy, Ministry of Justice;
- Ms. Filipa Pereira, Directorate of the Services of Coordination of International Relations, Directorate-General of Health, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Health;

- Ms. Susana Pereira, Office of Strategy, Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security;
- Ms. Sara Romão, Office of Cultural Strategy, Planning and Evaluation, Secretary of State for Culture;
- Ms. Raquel Tavares, Legal Adviser, Office of Documentation and Comparative Law, Prosecutor General's Office;
- Ms. Joana dos Santos, Permanent Mission, Geneva.

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Agenda item 6
Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Portugal

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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1. Portugal welcomes the recommendations made during its Universal Periodic Review on 30 April 2014. 151 recommendations were formulated during the interactive dialogue and Portugal immediately accepted 67 (60 of which were considered to have been implemented or in the process of implementation) and took note of five.

2. Portugal deferred consideration on 79 recommendations. These latter have now been examined and Portugal would like to provide the following responses.

I. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below enjoy the support of Portugal

127.1. Consider and concur to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's recommendation to ratify the amendments to Article 8, para 6 of the ICERD (Namibia).

127.9. Redouble its efforts to fight racial discrimination, including through the support to relevant non-governmental organizations (Bangladesh).

127.11. Consider drafting a national action plan on addressing the question of racism and racial discrimination faced by persons from African descent (Egypt).

127.12. Improve the effectiveness and accessibility of domestic remedies against racial discrimination (Islamic Republic of Iran).

127.13. Redouble its efforts to fight racial discrimination, including through support to relevant non-governmental organizations and further recommend special measures for vulnerable groups, including Ciganos, Roma and people of African descent (South Africa).

127.15. Increase support for the Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

127.26. Continue strengthening the mechanisms to supervise the observance of human rights of the inmates, with the aim of preventing ill-treatment and handle in a timely, manner all complaints of torture and other ill-treatment (Italy).

127.27. Expedite the judicial processes so cases stay within the statute of limitation, and to improve the conditions in penitentiary facilities (Netherlands).

127.33. Adopt comprehensive measures to address the problem of overcrowding, prevent suicides among inmates and improve health conditions in prisons (Uzbekistan).

127.40. Intensify efforts to make its justice system more efficient (Norway).

127.41. Improve the national legislation so as to speed-up the judicial process (Russian Federation).

127.42. Incorporate the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, otherwise known as the "Bangkok Rules", as part of its programme on adequate treatment for women detainees, especially young pregnant women (Thailand).

127.72. Continue its efforts aimed at the adoption of legislative measures to enhance equality and combat discrimination that Portuguese citizens with African descent suffer from it (Libya).

127.73. Ensure sufficient budgetary allocation for the effective implementation of National Strategy for the integration of Roma Community 2013-2020 strategies (India).

127.74. Continue to implement the National Strategy for the Integration of Roma Communities and ensure its appropriate and responsible funding (Slovakia).

II. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Portugal which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation

127.2. Continue harmonizing its national laws with its obligations under international human rights law, with a view of giving a priority in this regard to ICERD (Egypt).

127.3. Rapidly complete the alignment of national legislation with the provisions of the Rome Statute (Tunisia).

127.4. Fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute, by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the International Criminal Court and ratify the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute (Estonia).

127.5. Fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute, through the incorporation of provisions to fully and promptly cooperate with the International Criminal Court (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

127.6. Expand to law enforcement officers human rights education campaign, especially on rights of women, children, the elderly and minorities (Viet Nam).

127.7. Ensure that adequate resources are allocated for the effective implementation of its comprehensive national human rights action plans (Philippines).

127.10. Remain steadfast in pursuing its preventive and repressive programme to combat discrimination against migrants and asylum-seekers (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

127.14. Strengthen its efforts to combat racial discrimination, especially in the judicial system (Slovenia).

127.16. Take strong action to address the hate speech and racial discrimination in access to housing, education and employment of ethnic minorities and intensify awareness-raising training for law enforcement officials (Sierra Leone).

127.18. Ensure that reports of the use of excessive force or ill-treatment by law enforcement officials are fully investigated (Australia).

127.19. Intensify training and adequate supervision of alleged cases of ill-treatment by the police forces (Cabo Verde).

127.20. Take specific steps to ensure prompt and thorough investigations of all allegations of excessive use of force and ill treatment by law enforcement officials including police and prison guards (Canada).

127.21. Deliver a clear message to all prison managers and staff that all forms of ill-treatment are unacceptable and will result in sanctions (United States of America).

127.22. Investigate all ill-treatment and other wrongdoing by law enforcement officials and bring the perpetrators to justice (Islamic Republic of Iran).

127.23. Strengthen efforts to ensure that investigations into allegations of ill-treatment of detainees are timely and effective (United States of America).

127.24. Investigate all allegations of illegal use of force and ill-treatment by police and security forces, including against migrants, Roma and people of African descent (Uzbekistan).

127.25. Strengthen its efforts to protect basic rights of inmates in vulnerable situations and ensure that inmates have access to and knowledge of proper complaint mechanisms (Norway).

127.28. Pursue efforts to combat overcrowding in prisons (France).

127.29. Support through legislation non-custodial measures as an alternative to imprisonment to reduce overcrowding in prisons (Hungary).

127.30. Undertake measures to avoid overcrowding in prisons, including when appropriate, alternatives of social reintegration instead of imprisonment, as well as avoiding prolonged periods of pre-trial detention (Mexico).

127.31. Consider increasing the use of non-custodial measures to reduce overcrowding (Norway).

127.32. Adopt a national strategy for the improvement of the situation in the prison system (Russian Federation).

127.34. Redouble its efforts with a focus on trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation and special focus on trafficking in children (India).

127.35. Ensure the enforcement of the legal framework for the prosecution of human traffickers and appropriate assistance of victims of trafficking in human beings (Republic of Moldova).

127.36. Find possibilities to strengthen the oversight of the governmental and law-enforcement organs in the field of trafficking in human beings (Russian Federation).

127.37. Further consolidate its efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Malaysia).

127.38. Continue to increase community awareness of domestic violence and give particular attention to the needs of families caring for older persons (Australia).

127.39. Pay special attention to the situation of domestic violence and its evolution, particularly because of the possible impact of the economic difficulties on families (Costa Rica).

127.43. Continue with actions aimed at safeguarding due process in all judicial instances (Ecuador).

127.44. Call upon the competent authorities to ensure the right of access to lawyer by detained persons (Hungary).

127.45. Ensure that human rights violations by police and prison officials, particularly cases of torture and other ill-treatment, are investigated and do not go unpunished (Costa Rica).

127.46. Pursue efforts to prevent abuses committed by the law enforcement forces and to improve prison conditions (Côte d'Ivoire).

127.47. Provide, in accordance with its obligations under International Human Rights Law, the widest possible protection and support for the family, as the natural and fundamental unit of society (Egypt).

127.49. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the protection of the family, and lay down an efficient system for families in order to guarantee the enhancement of social cohesion and prevent family disintegration and social fracturing (Mauritania).

127.50. Support and protect the family as a fundamental and natural unit of society (Uzbekistan).

127.53. Strengthen measures to assist families most in need in the context to the economic and financial crisis (Angola).

127.54. Further promote employment (China).

127.55. Mitigate the effects of the financial crisis on its efforts to address the issues of child poverty and children living in streets (Malaysia).

127.56. Carry-out an analysis on the effects of the crisis on human rights, especially on socio-economic rights. Such an analysis should focus particularly on the situation of vulnerable groups such as refugees, migrants, the Roma, children, women and elderly people (Turkey).

127.57. Remain committed to implementing its human rights obligations and minimizing the impact of the crisis, particularly on the most vulnerable (Ukraine).

127.58. Continue protecting the vulnerable groups from the consequences of the austerity measures undertaken by the Portuguese government in the framework of the economic and financial adjustment programme which was adopted in the past few years (United Arab Emirates).

127.59. Establish and implement, based on the performance assessment of the October 2011 Social Emergency Plan, effective economic strategies of sustainable recovery and development that integrate elements of poverty alleviation and protection of human rights (Viet Nam).

127.61. Improve its social security system and provide necessary social protection to vulnerable groups (China).

127.62. Continue the protection of women, migrants, persons with disabilities and elderly people, groups which are particularly vulnerable in this moment of economic and financial crisis (Holy See).

127.63. Adequately protect those social groups particularly vulnerable to budget cuts, as is the case of children and older persons (Cabo Verde).

127.64. Take relevant measures in order to prevent the possible negative impacts of the austerity measures on the human rights situation for the most vulnerable groups, particularly children (Republic of Korea).

127.65. Continue prioritizing the adoption of relatively low-cost targeted arrangements for the best protection of children's rights (Italy).

127.66. Provide primary and secondary education for all children irrespective of their legal status (Holy See).

127.67. Continue its efforts to ensure that all children enjoy equal rights without discrimination (Ireland).

127.68. Pursue efforts to combat illiteracy working in particular to promote access to school for disadvantaged children (Senegal).

127.69. Pursue its efforts to combat illiteracy and establish an effective system for adult education and training (South Africa).

127.71. Further strengthening activities towards inclusive education of children with disabilities (Montenegro).

127.75. Strengthen efforts for the protection of the rights of unaccompanied children and children separated while seeking refuge (Ecuador).

127.76. Continue the measures implemented to ensure the right to water and sanitation within the framework of General Assembly Resolution 64/292 (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)).

127.77. Consider the promotion and protection of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)).

127.78. Continue to strengthen and provide further resources to the National Commission for the Protection of Children and Young people at risk in order to protect the rights of neglected and abused children (Timor-Leste).

127.79. Strengthen the measures aimed at guaranteeing and reinforcing the rights of older persons (Argentina).

III. Portugal notes the recommendations listed below

127.8. Reinforce the Ombudsman, as a national institution compliant with the Paris Principles, with legislative measures, human and financial resources (Uruguay).

127.17. Adopt a law explicitly making racial motivation an aggravating circumstance for crimes and offences (France).

127.48. Foster and safeguard the family, based upon the stable relationship between a man and a woman, as the natural and fundamental unit of society (Holy See).

127.51. Take measures in order to allow the co-adoption of children by same-sex couples (Brazil).

127.52. Decriminalise defamation and place it under the civil code in accordance with international standards (Ireland).

127.60. Amend the Labour Code so that compulsory arbitration may only be imposed on worker and employer organizations in the case of national or local crisis (United States of America).

127.70. Make ragging of students an offence and conduct awareness-raising campaigns against ragging (France).

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Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bhutan

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its nineteenth session from 28 April to 9 May 2014. The review of Bhutan was held at the 6th meeting, on 30 April 2014. The delegation of Bhutan was headed by Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs. At its 10th meeting, held on 2 May 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on Bhutan.

2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bhutan: Maldives, Peru and South Africa.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Bhutan:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/BTN/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/BTN/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/BTN/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Bhutan through the troika. Those questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR).

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation of Bhutan reiterated the State's unremitting commitment to further protecting and promoting the fundamental rights and freedoms of its people as enshrined in the Constitution. He added that many provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights had been incorporated into the Constitution and that they had immensely influenced provisions relating to human rights.

6. An example of the independence of the judiciary was the country's first constitutional case, brought by the opposition against the Government in August 2010, in which the Supreme Court had ruled that the Government had erred in revising certain tax rates without following due legislative process.

7. As had been recommended during the previous UPR of Bhutan, the State had made concerted efforts to achieve the adoption of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, the Child Adoption Act and the Child Care and Protection Act. Those acts provided the necessary legal framework for the protection and promotion of women's and children's rights in accordance with the country's national policies as well as its commitments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to which Bhutan was a party. The rules and regulations for the acts in question were being finalized.

8. Bhutan's democratic process had been further consolidated under the reigning monarch with the successful holding of local government elections in 2011 and the second parliamentary elections in 2013.

9. In recognition of the importance of a strong and professional press, the Bhutan Media Foundation had been established by royal charter in 2010. The monthly "Meet the Press" events with the participation of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet ensured access to the Government at the highest level.

10. The National Commission for Women and Children, an autonomous agency, coordinated and monitored policies and activities related to the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children.

11. The Government of Bhutan continued to attach great importance to the social sectors and to its pro-poor policies. More than 20 per cent of the total budget of the eleventh Five-Year Plan was allocated to education and health.

12. The Government was also ensuring that under the Five-Year Plan more emphasis was placed on gender issues and women's empowerment in all policies and national plans. The Government had also pledged to explore the adoption of a quota system for women's participation in the electoral process.

13. Bhutan was fully committed to ensuring gender equality in all aspects of electoral and other democratic participation.

14. Bhutan had benefited from constructive dialogue with expert bodies in the past, and in that spirit the Special Rapporteur on the right to education had been invited to visit Bhutan in May 2014.

15. In order to protect and promote the inherent dignity of all, and particularly the rights of persons with disabilities, Bhutan had signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2010.

16. With regard to the recommendations received in the previous UPR of Bhutan on acceding to the core human rights instruments, Bhutan first needed to establish the necessary legal framework, social institutions and human and financial resources to assume the obligations associated with those treaties and to abide by them in letter and spirit. As its capacity became enhanced, Bhutan would consider acceding to additional international human rights instruments.

17. The head of delegation elaborated on the numerous initiatives undertaken by the Government in addition to the recommendations received during the first UPR, such as the open-air prison system and the weekly "Meet the People" programme involving the Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the public.

18. Following up on the recommendation made during the first UPR of Bhutan in 2009 that it share its concept of "gross national happiness", Bhutan had initiated General Assembly resolution 65/309 entitled "Happiness: towards a holistic approach to development", which had been adopted by consensus in 2011. Bhutan had hosted a very successful high-level meeting on well-being and happiness in New York in April 2012. A subsequent report on the subject had been submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General in December 2013 as his country's contribution to the post-2015 development agenda.

19. Bhutan faced numerous challenges, such as a high rate of youth unemployment, uneven poverty rates across districts and regions and the problem of destitute economic migrants entering Bhutan illegally through open borders. In addition, Bhutan had been subjected to terrorist acts.

20. Bhutan looked forward to an open and constructive dialogue.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

21. During the interactive dialogue, 88 delegations made statements. A number of delegations thanked Bhutan for its comprehensive report and commended the progress made in promoting and protecting human rights since the first UPR in 2009. The dialogue with civil society during the preparation of the national report was considered a positive step. The recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

22. Austria welcomed the holding of the 2013 parliamentary elections, the development of democracy and the institutionalization of an independent judiciary. It welcomed initiatives to promote women's safety and develop civil society. It looked forward to the repatriation of refugees. Austria made recommendations.

23. Azerbaijan welcomed the adoption of laws for the protection of women and children and the establishment of a separate division for that purpose. It congratulated Bhutan on having strengthened its anti-corruption legislation and noted efforts to reduce poverty. Azerbaijan made recommendations.

24. Bahrain welcomed the national plans to protect human rights, dignity and justice. It noted the measures regarding women's political participation, the protection of women from violence and youth unemployment. It expressed the hope that Bhutan would continue its efforts to protect vulnerable groups. Bahrain made recommendations.

25. Bangladesh congratulated Bhutan on its elections, which had further consolidated the democratic process. It noted progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and gender equality in education. It noted that poverty remained prevalent. Bangladesh made a recommendation.

26. Belarus welcomed the invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, as well as progress in combating human trafficking and corruption and promoting women's and children's rights. It noted that further efforts were needed to combat poverty and youth unemployment. Belarus made recommendations.

27. The Plurinational State of Bolivia commended efforts to strengthen child protection, which would improve the Government's capacity to respond to violence, abuse and exploitation affecting children. It made recommendations.

28. Botswana noted initiatives regarding social protection for vulnerable groups. It welcomed the Domestic Violence Prevention Act. It expressed concern regarding reports of child labour and abuse of children and urged Bhutan to implement child protection legislation. Botswana made recommendations.

29. Brazil acknowledged the consolidation of the democratic process. It noted the challenge of providing education for all. It expressed concern at violent and exploitative practices against women and children. Brazil made a recommendation.

30. Brunei Darussalam commended Bhutan on the adoption of an inclusive process for the preparation of the report. It commended efforts to promote children's rights, particularly through the provision of education. It welcomed youth unemployment programmes. It made recommendations.

31. Cambodia commended efforts to uphold the rule of law and strengthen democracy in Bhutan. It noted legislative progress, including the adoption of child protection laws. It commended Bhutan for organizing events to raise awareness of human rights. Cambodia made recommendations.

32. Canada requested information on the dialogue with Nepal concerning Bhutanese refugees, future initiatives and cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It applauded the peaceful transition of Bhutan to democracy and noted its achievement of certain Millennium Development Goals. Canada made recommendations.

33. Chad noted the considerable progress in implementing recommendations and improving the human rights situation. It welcomed the inclusive report preparation process, which had involved consultation with many stakeholders. Chad made recommendations.

34. China welcomed investment in education and health and efforts to promote gender equality and protect vulnerable groups. It acknowledged the challenges that Bhutan faced and called on the international community to provide support. China made recommendations.

35. Costa Rica noted measures to strengthen the judiciary and to promote a culture of human rights through awareness-raising events. It invited Bhutan to continue its work on human rights education. It made recommendations.

36. Cuba commended Bhutan for its investment in free education and health care and for the attention given to the needs of children with disabilities. It noted social protection initiatives to enhance the population's quality of life. Cuba made a recommendation.

37. The Czech Republic commended Bhutan for the steps taken, including the adoption of legislation to combat corruption and domestic violence. It encouraged Bhutan to make progress in various areas. It made recommendations.

38. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed appreciation for the commitment, efforts and achievements of Bhutan in the field of human rights, including the implementation of previously accepted recommendations. It made recommendations.

39. Denmark commended Bhutan for its constructive engagement and the progress made. It noted that Bhutan had not taken steps towards ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and drew attention to the initiative aimed at achieving universal ratification of that convention through the provision of assistance. Denmark made a recommendation.

40. Egypt noted the gradual consolidation of democracy, accompanied by progress in areas such as education and poverty reduction. It acknowledged the challenges concerning youth employment and food security and encouraged Bhutan to maintain its commitment to those areas. Egypt made recommendations.

41. Eritrea noted efforts towards inclusive education for children with disabilities, and progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It noted the decline in poverty but recognized that the latter still posed a major challenge. Eritrea made recommendations.

42. Ethiopia commended efforts to enhance the legislative framework in various areas. It welcomed the development and poverty reduction goals set by Bhutan and encouraged it to further strengthen efforts to tackle poverty. Ethiopia made recommendations.

43. France commended Bhutan for its efforts to consolidate the democratic process and improve the human rights situation, and encouraged it to continue those efforts. France made recommendations.

44. Gabon commended Bhutan for its commitment to human rights. It welcomed the improvement of the legislative framework, including the adoption of legislation to prevent violence and corruption. It noted that many challenges still needed to be addressed. Gabon made recommendations.

45. Germany acknowledged the positive developments that had led to the peaceful and democratic change of government. It commended steps to implement previous UPR recommendations, notably the enactment of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act. Germany made recommendations.

46. Ghana applauded steps to implement previous UPR recommendations. It requested clarification of the work and functions of the Gross National Happiness Commission, which had taken part in the preparation of the report. Ghana made a recommendation.

47. India commended the commitment of Bhutan to democracy and a free press, its achievements in poverty reduction, its efforts to consolidate the democratic process, and its holding of elections in 2013. It acknowledged the challenges facing Bhutan. India made recommendations.

48. Indonesia noted efforts to ensure women's political participation, and the consideration of a quota system. It welcomed plans to reduce poverty and to assist vulnerable groups through targeted intervention. Indonesia made recommendations.

49. Iraq commended Bhutan for its achievements in improving the human rights situation since the first UPR cycle, its initiatives to protect women and children from violence, and its strengthening of human rights legislation. It welcomed efforts to promote political, economic and social rights and to combat poverty.

50. Ireland encouraged Bhutan to adhere to international instruments. It drew attention to the pending visit request by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. It expressed concern at the prevalence of malnutrition, which increased child mortality and the likelihood of the non-fulfilment of Millennium Development Goal 4. Ireland made recommendations.

51. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the constructive engagement of Bhutan in the UPR process. It noted the drafting of rules and regulations under the Child Care and Protection Act. It expressed appreciation for poverty reduction efforts and programmes. It made recommendations.

52. Italy commended Bhutan for its poverty alleviation efforts, for having taken steps towards ratifying international instruments and for having ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the optional protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It expressed concern regarding child marriage and child labour. Italy made recommendations.

53. Jordan welcomed the enactment of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, the Child Care and Protection Act and the Anti-Corruption Act, as well as the establishment of the National Commission for Women and Children. Jordan made recommendations.

54. Kazakhstan noted the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the adoption of related domestic legislation, improved education and health care provision, and efforts to combat domestic violence and human trafficking. It welcomed the establishment of the National Commission for Women and Children and improved awareness of human rights. Kazakhstan made recommendations.

55. Kuwait commended progress in poverty alleviation through programmes such as the Rural Economy Advancement Programme and the National Rehabilitation Programme for the most vulnerable groups. Kuwait made a recommendation.

56. Kyrgyzstan noted the recent reduction in poverty and the provision of free education and health care. It expressed support for anti-corruption measures, which had improved the situation. Kyrgyzstan made recommendations.

57. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted the adoption of human rights legislation and progress in alleviating poverty and promoting gender equality, youth employment and access to free education and health care. It made a recommendation.

58. Latvia applauded the ratification of the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It highlighted the important role of the human rights special procedures. Latvia made recommendations.

59. Madagascar recognized the strengthened normative and institutional framework and encouraged Bhutan to continue the democratic process. It noted progress in promoting the right to education, children's rights and the right to health. Madagascar made recommendations.

60. Malaysia expressed appreciation for the strengthening of national institutions, as it had previously recommended. It noted the strengthened rule of law and democracy, consolidated by successful elections in 2011 and 2013. Malaysia made a recommendation.

61. Maldives noted progress towards universal education, including for children with disabilities, which required support from the international community. It noted the improved legislative framework. The Gross National Happiness Index had improved development indices. Maldives made recommendations.

62. Regarding women's participation in politics, the delegation stated that, in line with the current Government's pledge to establish legal quotas for women's participation in politics, the National Commission for Women and Children had taken many steps, including the establishment of the Bhutan Network for Empowering Women.

63. To improve access to justice for female victims of violence, the delegation explained, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act of 2013 allowed domestic violence cases to be filed not only by the police but also by a victim, a complainant, a protection officer or a service provider. The involvement of the judiciary in issuing protection orders to victims also improved access to justice for victims.

64. In response to comments on youth unemployment, the delegation stated that the Government was drafting a national employment policy and improving coordination between the private sector and government agencies to better align skills with available jobs. Steps were being taken to establish a business opportunity and information centre to provide credit particularly to small and medium-sized enterprises, and to explore overseas employment opportunities for young people.

65. Mauritius welcomed the parliamentary elections of 2013. It noted that an improved institutional framework was supported by resources and legislation, that primary education was free and compulsory, and that happiness was recognized as a development paradigm. Mauritius made a recommendation.

66. Mexico welcomed the participation of civil society in the preparation of the national report. It expressed concern regarding the lack of ratification of international instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Mexico made recommendations.

67. Mongolia highlighted the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law as well as new legislation promoting judicial independence and legal reform. It welcomed the signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and urged Bhutan to become a party to other instruments. Mongolia made a recommendation.

68. Montenegro noted efforts to improve the institutional and legislative framework. It asked about plans to improve cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and

prevent domestic violence and harmful traditional practices. Montenegro made recommendations.

69. Morocco commended Bhutan for its promotion of the "national happiness" concept. It asked how Bhutan would combat youth unemployment, and for details of planned sustainable solutions to challenges related to education, health care, infrastructure and the economy. Morocco made a recommendation.

70. Myanmar welcomed efforts towards poverty eradication and government programmes to provide free education through grade 10. It noted new human rights legislation. Myanmar made recommendations.

71. Nepal applauded efforts to strengthen democracy, combat gender-based violence and enhance female representation in decision-making. Repatriation of refugees was the only solution to the refugee crisis, and it urged Bhutan to cooperate. Nepal made recommendations.

72. The Netherlands commended Bhutan on its transition to a democratic constitutional monarchy and its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It was concerned that refugees wishing to return to Bhutan could not do so. It made recommendations.

73. Nicaragua recognized progress towards improving human rights and commended the provision of support by the international community. It noted the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and the Child Care and Protection Act. Nicaragua made recommendations.

74. Oman noted the enactment of national legislation and efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and that improving economic conditions, tackling unemployment, alleviating poverty and providing health care and education were national priorities. Oman made a recommendation.

75. Pakistan commended Bhutan for its enactment of several new laws to advance human rights. It welcomed measures towards environmental conservation, which promoted development and economic rights. Pakistan made recommendations.

76. Paraguay noted the reduction in poverty and welcomed legislation on domestic violence, the creation of institutions to protect women and children, and programmes to protect vulnerable groups and empower local governments. Paraguay made recommendations.

77. Peru commended Bhutan for its efforts to consolidate democracy and the rule of law. It welcomed measures to promote civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It encouraged international cooperation to tackle remaining challenges. Peru made recommendations.

78. The Philippines acknowledged the commitment of Bhutan to strengthening the rule of law, combating domestic violence, reducing the gender gap in tertiary education and increasing women's participation in politics. It noted the enactment of legislation on human trafficking. It urged Bhutan to cooperate with climate change initiatives. It made recommendations.

79. Portugal welcomed the extending of an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, as well as the adoption of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and the Child Care and Protection Act. It expressed concern regarding gender-based violence. Portugal made recommendations.

80. Saudi Arabia noted progress in protecting children's rights, providing access to high-quality gender-equal education, and combating domestic violence and human trafficking. It noted the creation of the National Commission for Women and Children. It made recommendations.

81. Serbia welcomed the laws to protect children's rights and prevent domestic violence and encouraged Bhutan to implement them. The National Commission for Women and Children should be enabled to fulfil its mandate. Serbia made a recommendation.

82. Sierra Leone applauded the commitment of Bhutan to strengthening democracy and reducing poverty. Access to health care and good governance had improved. Bhutan should combat gender-based violence, increase women's access to justice and reduce youth unemployment. Sierra Leone made recommendations.

83. Singapore noted efforts to further the rule of law, strengthen judicial capacity and develop human resources. It acknowledged improvements to the education system and efforts to improve equal access to education. Singapore made recommendations.

84. Slovenia welcomed the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It noted that the high incidence of child marriage was a major factor contributing to the significant number of low-birth-weight babies. Slovenia made recommendations.

85. Solomon Islands commended efforts to mainstream gender into development plans and policies and the commitment to collaborating with and supporting civil society organizations, given their critical role in advancing human rights. It made recommendations.

86. South Africa commended the priority given to environmental conservation, socioeconomic development, good governance and the preservation of culture. It encouraged Bhutan to make further efforts to tackle non-communicable diseases and to promote, protect and ensure the fulfilment of human rights. It made recommendations.

87. South Sudan noted the commitment to strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights through the adoption of relevant legislation. It applauded initiatives to enhance democracy, notably through public awareness-raising programmes. It made a recommendation.

88. Spain welcomed measures to promote inclusive education, especially for persons with disabilities, and efforts to combat gender-based violence. It expressed concern about discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. It made recommendations.

89. Sri Lanka was encouraged by progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, although challenges remained, including insufficient food and nutrition security and chronic malnutrition among a third of children. It noted the commitment to environmental conservation. It made recommendations.

90. The State of Palestine welcomed efforts to ensure that democracy took firm root, but noted that challenges remained. The youth unemployment rate, which was higher than the national average, also remained a concern. The State of Palestine made recommendations.

91. The Sudan highlighted the alternative development model of Bhutan, which was based on the concept of "gross national happiness" and emphasized a more holistic approach to development, with people at its centre. The Sudan made a recommendation.

92. Switzerland welcomed the progress made in strengthening the democratic process. It expressed concern about the situation of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal and the fact that certain ethnic groups continued to suffer discrimination in Bhutan. Switzerland made recommendations.

93. The United Republic of Tanzania commended Bhutan for holding successful elections and establishing development plans, and for its achievements in the areas of economic development, education, health care, food and nutrition security, and youth employment. The United Republic of Tanzania made a recommendation.

94. Thailand welcomed the significant role played by the National Commission for Women and Children and the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2010. It cited remaining challenges, including illegal immigration and macroeconomic management. Thailand made recommendations.

95. Timor-Leste welcomed budgetary allocations to education and health and the priority given to guaranteeing free health services and primary education for all. It lauded progress towards gender equality in education. It made recommendations.

96. Tunisia encouraged Bhutan to continue the Prime Minister's weekly meetings with the people, and to ensure that human rights defenders, journalists and other actors were able to carry out their activities. Tunisia made a recommendation.

97. Turkey welcomed the adoption of legislation and progress towards strengthening the judiciary and combating corruption, achieving gender equality in education, meeting the needs of vulnerable children, reducing poverty and achieving food security. Turkey made recommendations.

98. Turkmenistan welcomed the strengthening of legislative, institutional and policy mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the adoption of relevant legislation, and improvements in prison conditions. Turkmenistan made recommendations.

99. Uganda highlighted achievements, including the provision of free health care and primary education for all, a social safety net for vulnerable groups and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Uganda made recommendations.

100. The United Arab Emirates welcomed progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and efforts to ensure social equality and guarantee the rights of all citizens, including social and economic rights. It made a recommendation.

101. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the adoption of relevant legislation and calls by the National Commission for Women and Children to support women by empowering them economically. It expressed concern about early marriage and violence against women. It echoed calls for Bhutan to develop self-regulatory mechanisms for the media and adopt freedom of information legislation. It made recommendations.

102. The United States of America commended Bhutan for progress on its democratization agenda. It expressed disappointment at the failure to allow the return of ethnic Bhutanese refugees from camps in Nepal. It voiced concern regarding the fact that laws and practices restricted religious freedom and that consensual sexual acts between adults of the same sex were criminalized. The United States made recommendations.

103. Uruguay commended institutional and legislative changes and efforts to strengthen the judiciary and democracy. It encouraged Bhutan to invite special procedures mandate holders to visit the country. Uruguay made recommendations.

104. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed institutional and legislative measures to improve the management of public services, with the involvement of all stakeholders, and initiatives to reduce poverty and provide free health-care services. It made recommendations.

105. Viet Nam congratulated Bhutan on its efforts to uphold the rule of law, strengthen democracy and ensure the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by its people. It made recommendations.

106. Yemen took note of the fact that, despite numerous challenges, Bhutan had enacted legislation to promote and protect human rights and strengthen the judiciary, and that it had

built capacity and raised awareness, including by providing legal training on human rights. Yemen made a recommendation.

107. Zambia commended Bhutan for enacting key human rights legislation and for its efforts to provide free health care and education and protect marginalized people. It encouraged Bhutan to continue its efforts to promote and protect human rights. Zambia made recommendations.

108. Afghanistan welcomed the steps taken by Bhutan to promote economic and social rights. It recognized the important role of the National Commission for Women and Children in promoting and protecting the rights of women, children and the disadvantaged and the increasing number of civil society organizations and their growing role. Afghanistan made recommendations.

109. Algeria welcomed the adoption of domestic violence, child protection and anti-corruption legislation and the creation of commissions to oversee efforts in the areas of human rights, women's issues, children's issues and gender equality. Algeria made recommendations.

110. Argentina encouraged Bhutan to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to accede to the other international human rights instruments to which it was not a party. Argentina recognized the State's concern for and commitment to women's rights. Argentina made recommendations.

111. Armenia encouraged Bhutan to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other international human rights conventions, particularly the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Armenia expressed concern regarding the number of young people who had never attended school. Armenia made recommendations.

112. Australia commended Bhutan for having held successful elections in 2013, for its progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, for its commitment to improving living standards and for its legal reforms to address human rights issues. It expressed concern about the situation of Bhutanese refugees living in Nepal. Australia made recommendations.

113. In response to the questions raised regarding freedom of religion, the delegation explained that the Bhutanese people had the freedom to embrace and practise any religion of their choosing. The delegation referred to article 7, paragraph 4 of the Constitution, which guaranteed the right to practise any religion provided a person was not compelled to belong to a faith by means of coercion or inducement.

114. Regarding questions relating to electoral issues, the delegation explained that Bhutanese citizens who were at least 18 years old were entitled to vote. However, according to the Constitution and the Election Act of 2008, members of the royal family, religious figures and members of religious institutions could neither participate in the electoral process nor join political parties, as they were meant to remain above politics, without promoting any party or candidate in an election. The Election Commission was an independent entity, as stipulated in the Constitution and the Election Act.

115. Regarding the issue of people in refugee camps in eastern Nepal, the delegation explained that the problem was not a straightforward refugee situation but rather arose from illegal economic immigration. The root cause was the massive movement of people in the region who suffered from extreme poverty, environmental degradation and political instability. There were more than 130,000 non-Bhutanese workers in Bhutan – more than in the 1990s. Some married local people in order to be able to stay in Bhutan, and some even requested citizenship. The Governments of Bhutan and Nepal had agreed that there were a variety of people in the camps, including non-Bhutanese people. The delegation expressed

appreciation for the resettlement of refugees to third countries by the core group of countries.

116. Responding to the questions regarding children's rights, the delegation explained that Bhutan was a member of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children and was working to address child protection issues, such as child marriage, corporal punishment and harmful traditional practices.

117. In conclusion, the delegation thanked all participating member States for their participation. Bhutan valued the recommendations received and would seriously consider them.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

118. **The following recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue enjoy the support of Bhutan:**

118.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Chad);**

118.2 **Continue to review national legislation in order to ensure that it is in line with the State's international human rights obligations (Turkmenistan);**

118.3 **Establish a national child welfare committee, as provided for by the Child Care and Protection Act (South Africa);**

118.4 **Establish an effective organization within the Government for implementing the child protection programme as an initial step (Turkey);**

118.5 **Continue providing assistance to the National Commission for Women and Children through capacity-building and providing additional human resources and technical expertise (Afghanistan);**

118.6 **Further its endeavours with regard to the smooth and productive activity of the Women and Child Protection Division within the country (Azerbaijan);**

118.7 **Step up efforts on monitoring and evaluation of the activities related to women's empowerment and child protection through development of an appropriate monitoring system (Belarus);**

118.8 **Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation efforts of women's empowerment and child protection through development of appropriate monitoring mechanisms (Ethiopia);**

118.9 **Continue developing the institutional framework with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights (Jordan);**

118.10 **Pursue its commitment to developing human resources and to strengthening national social and political institutions in order to enhance its capacity to fulfil its international human rights obligations (Timor-Leste);**

118.11 **Strengthen its national efforts in promoting human rights education and training (Egypt);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

118.12 **Continue to seek assistance from the United Nations system and the international community in order to promote human rights awareness throughout the country (Timor-Leste);**

118.13 **Continue its cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations to overcome the remaining constraints and challenges (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

118.14 **Request from the international community the necessary help and technical assistance to meet its obligations under international conventions and treaties (Morocco);**

118.15 **Continue its efforts to implement its international human rights obligations (Pakistan);**

118.16 **Call for technical assistance for capacity-building to fulfil international treaty reporting obligations (Uganda);**

118.17 **Continue its policies in improving women's rights (Jordan);**

118.18 **Ensure the protection and advancement of women's rights, especially in rural areas, and, in particular, promoting wider participation of women in politics and decision-making on national and local levels and strengthening combating violence against women and children (Czech Republic);**

118.19 **Pay further attention to the issue of domestic violence, the gender gap in tertiary education and women's participation in politics (Kyrgyzstan);**

118.20. **Formulate awareness-raising activities as part of efforts to prevent the practice of child marriage, and consider improving the availability of antenatal and postnatal services to women (Slovenia);**

118.21 **Continue taking the necessary measures to promote the rights of children and women (Nicaragua);**

118.22 **Take further measures to address violence against women and shortcomings concerning the enjoyment of rights by women and girls (Portugal);**

118.23 **Continue its efforts to raise awareness in rural communities about marriage laws and the dangers of child, early and forced marriage (Canada);**

118.24 **Continue to provide for all needs of vulnerable children, and especially children from poor socioeconomic backgrounds (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

118.25 **Continue efforts to provide social care for children at risk, especially those from socioeconomically poor backgrounds (Yemen);**

118.26 **Continue efforts to promote children's rights and the right to education (Saudi Arabia);**

118.27 **Apply the law of 2011 in relation to the protection of children (Madagascar);**

118.28 **Take measures to effectively implement the Plan of Action for Child Protection (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

118.29 **Expedite the preparation and adoption of norms and regulations to implement the provisions of the Child Adoption Act and the 2011 Child Care and Protection Act (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

118.30 Continue with measures to improve the conditions of access to education and to health services for all, without discrimination (Algeria);

118.31 Continue to give priority attention to the protection of women and children from domestic violence, including by implementing and closely monitoring the impact of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (Germany);

118.32 Adopt measures to combat violence against women, including domestic violence (France);

118.33 Strengthen measures to combat gender-based violence, particularly by emphasizing awareness-raising in education and supporting programmes for the economic empowerment of women, especially in rural areas (Spain);

118.34 Continue to enhance its engagement with its regional and international partners to facilitate building of capacities in countering domestic and gender-based violence and human trafficking, especially of women and children (Philippines);

118.35 Continue efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, including in the framework of training professionals and increasing the level of awareness (Belarus);

118.36 Increase its efforts to prevent unacceptable forms of child labour (Italy);

118.37 Carry on with measures to ensure the effective and impartial enforcement of the laws and to end impunity in cases of domestic violence (Argentina);

118.38 Continue to improve the rule of law and undertake further measures to enhance the capacity of its law enforcement agencies (Singapore);

118.39 Strengthen the rule of law and good governance, including capacity-building for the law enforcement system and national institutions on human rights (Viet Nam);

118.40 Take steps to expedite public access to information through the right to information bill (India);

118.41 Facilitate the growth and development of civil society organizations in the country (Afghanistan);

118.42 Pursue efforts towards a solid democratic culture, particularly the participation of women in political life and in senior civil service posts (Switzerland);

118.43 Continue developing a long-standing democratic culture, including by increasing the participation of women in decision-making and intensifying efforts to strengthen accountability (State of Palestine);

118.44 Take further steps in promoting political participation of women (Kazakhstan);

118.45 Continue its advocacy campaign to encourage greater participation by women in the political process at the national and local levels (Indonesia);

118.46 Take measures to increase the political participation of women (India);

118.47 Encourage greater participation of women in the political process (Malaysia);

118.48 **Develop gender policies that allow a wider participation of women in politics (Paraguay);**

118.49 **Undertake campaigns to encourage greater women's participation in politics (Cambodia);**

118.50 **Review and address gaps in education and training policies and outline strategies to ensure employment growth, improve working conditions and provide equal opportunities (State of Palestine);**

118.51 **Develop a comprehensive national policy and strategic plans to create jobs and provide equal opportunities (Bahrain);**

118.52 **Continue efforts to foster economic growth and to enhance employment opportunities (Oman);**

118.53 **Intensify efforts to implement the National Employment Policy in creating more employment opportunities for the youth population (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

118.54 **Continue to take effective measures in favour of youth employment (China);**

118.55 **Continue to implement youth unemployment programmes in order to produce a skilled workforce to meet the requirements of the labour market and promote youth entrepreneurship (Brunei Darussalam);**

118.56 **Attach more attention to job creation, especially addressing youth unemployment (Turkey);**

118.57 **Remunerate participation in internship programmes and accompany them with technical education training through shared programmes with the country's economic and industrial sector (Mexico);**

118.58 **Continue the implementation of a more concrete system of social protection through the initiatives listed in the national report, and call on the international community to support those national efforts (Cuba);**

118.59 **Continue the programmes related to poverty reduction and continue the efforts to create a stronger system of social protection (Kuwait);**

118.60 **Further develop its sound social policies in order to increase the quality of life of its people, particularly in the neediest areas (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

118.61 **Continue to develop its human resources for further harmonizing and mainstreaming international obligations into domestic legislation and practices, with more focus on employment, education, health care, food security and social welfare, especially in rural and remote areas (Viet Nam);**

118.62 **Continue intensifying its efforts in poverty eradication and economic development with a view to graduating from the least developed country category by 2020 (United Republic of Tanzania);**

118.63 **Continue its efforts to further reduce poverty, particularly in rural areas (Cambodia);**

118.64 **Make more efforts to reduce poverty, leading to balanced and inclusive growth (China);**

118.65 **Continue to implement public policies to combat poverty (Paraguay);**

118.66 **Intensify the progress made to eliminate poverty by identifying the critical bottlenecks in society (Eritrea);**

118.67 **Continue its measures for poverty reduction, including reduction of multi-dimensional poverty (Azerbaijan);**

118.68 **Take concrete measures to reduce multi-dimensional poverty (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

118.69 **Continue addressing the challenges in reducing multi-dimensional poverty (Myanmar);**

118.70 **Continue to mobilize internal resources and capacity while strengthening cooperation with partners and United Nations agencies to address poverty challenges (Eritrea);**

118.71 **Promote and protect the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

118.72 **Step up its efforts to further reduce poverty, particularly in rural areas (Indonesia);**

118.73 **Allocate sufficient resources for potable water projects, especially in rural and marginalized areas (Mexico);**

118.74 **Continue the process of strengthening free health care and free education in remote areas as well as strengthening the *kidu* welfare system for the benefit of vulnerable populations (United Arab Emirates);**

118.75 **Continue to provide free health services, fully implementing the consolidated National Health Policy, which was launched in July 2011 (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

118.76 **Further consolidate its successful health programmes that provide medical care that is universal, free and of quality for all Bhutanese (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

118.77 **Continue its efforts to improve the quality of health services for mothers and children, including the education of pregnant women and mothers with a view to decreasing maternal and neonatal mortality rates, and to seek the assistance of the international community with a view to providing better health services to the people (Mauritius);**

118.78 **Adopt a comprehensive approach that includes providing a healthy environment, safe water and sanitation and proper childcare, encouraging exclusive breastfeeding and improving the education and the health of mothers, in order to reduce the mortality rate of children under 5 (Ireland);**

118.79 **Share its experiences in provision of free education to all children (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

118.80 **Continue the ongoing efforts to promote inclusive education (Eritrea);**

118.81 **Further develop the quality education policies in the country, paying special attention to providing school services to children in remote and difficult locations (Kazakhstan);**

118.82 **Strengthen the Government's efforts to eliminate illiteracy, particularly in remote and difficult locations (Kyrgyzstan);**

118.83 **Continue to improve its education system and ensure equitable access to quality education for its people (Singapore);**

118.84 **Continue taking measures to further promote and guarantee the right to education in the country, and particularly to increase school attendance among young people (Armenia);**

118.85 **Take further measures to address the decline of female enrolment in schools, in order to ensure that young women complete their secondary education (Portugal);**

118.86 **Continue programmes aimed at improving the level of education through financial support, especially for girls belonging to poor families (Bahrain);**

118.87 **Further address the gender disparity in school enrolment rates at the tertiary level (Myanmar);**

118.88 **Make use of the educational process to share the culture of human rights and raise awareness of those rights (Saudi Arabia);**

118.89 **Continue its efforts to enhance access to quality education for all its young citizens, especially those with special needs (Brunei Darussalam);**

118.90 **Work closely with the international community towards the priority goal of education for all, especially children with disabilities (Maldives);**

118.91 **Continue implementing the Non-Formal Education programme for adults, including persons with disabilities (South Sudan);**

118.92 **Further develop measures permitting the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in economic, political, social and cultural life, using a human-rights-based approach (Spain);**

118.93 **Intensify efforts to operationalize the concept of gross national happiness and the tools used to monitor its implementation in the development process (Sudan);**

118.94 **Continue to strengthen measures to achieve progress in the areas identified in the national development plan, through appropriate means (Sri Lanka);**

118.95 **Request development assistance to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (Ethiopia);**

118.96 **Continue its fight against poverty and the negative impacts of climate change with support from the international community (Bangladesh);**

118.97 **Continue to avail itself of technical assistance and international cooperation in its efforts relating to disaster management and preparedness as well as climate change mitigation (Maldives);**

118.98 **Develop and submit proposals for capacity development assistance in disaster management; proposals might include, for example, strengthening the knowledge of relevant national stakeholders of the impact of climate change and of sound disaster management from a human rights perspective (Solomon Islands);**

118.99 **Continue to strengthen its environmental conservation efforts, which contribute to the global efforts to safeguard the common heritage of humankind (Sri Lanka);**

118.100 **Continue to strengthen its environmental conservation efforts, which contribute significantly to global efforts to safeguard the common heritage of mankind (Pakistan);**

118.101 **Request technical assistance and cooperation, as deemed appropriate, from the international community, including relevant United Nations and other specialized agencies, with a view to ensuring the promotion and protection of the full spectrum of human rights of its people (Mongolia);**

118.102 **Call for technical assistance for gender development, women's empowerment, child protection, prevention of trafficking in persons and disaster management (Uganda);**

118.103 **Continue its efforts to strengthen its anti-corruption legislation and institutional framework (Azerbaijan).**

119. **Bhutan considers that recommendation 118.1 above has already been implemented.**

120. **Bhutan will examine the following recommendations and provide responses concerning them in due time, but no later than the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, to be held in September 2014:**

120.1 **Continue extending its international commitments and consider ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Latvia); continue its efforts to establish a legal framework to protect human rights by ratifying core instruments, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (France); take steps to ratify the core human rights conventions, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Sierra Leone); ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Austria); accede to the international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Peru); ratify all core international human rights treaties, most notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Germany); ratify or accede to the main instruments on human rights, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Madagascar); ratify the international human rights instruments, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Algeria); ratify the other core human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, without delay (Ghana); ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Tunisia); ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Botswana); ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Gabon); accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its protocols (Uruguay);**

120.2 **Consider the possibility of acceding to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Egypt); consider ratifying and implementing international human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Zambia); continue its efforts to establish a legal framework to protect human rights by ratifying core instruments, especially the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (France); take steps to ratify the core human rights conventions, in particular the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Sierra Leone); ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Austria); accede to the international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Peru); ratify all core international human rights treaties, most**

notably the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Germany); ratify or accede to the main instruments on human rights, in particular the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Madagascar); ratify the international human rights instruments, particularly the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Algeria); ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Tunisia); ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol (Portugal); accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay); sign and ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol (Spain);

120.3 **Continue its efforts to establish a legal framework to protect human rights by ratifying core instruments, especially the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (France); ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, signed in 1973 (Peru); ratify or accede to the main instruments on human rights, in particular the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Madagascar); ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Tunisia); accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Gabon); ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Chad);**

120.4 **Continue extending its international commitments and consider ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Latvia); take steps to ratify the core human rights conventions, in particular the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sierra Leone); ratify all core international human rights treaties, most notably the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Germany); ratify or accede to the main instruments on human rights, in particular the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Madagascar); ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Tunisia); ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as previously recommended (Denmark); accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Uruguay);**

120.5 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland); ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

120.6 **Consider the possibility of acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt); consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines); ratify the international human rights instruments, particularly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All**

Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria); ratify the other core human rights treaties, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, without delay (Ghana);

120.7 **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the earliest opportunity (Thailand); continue its efforts to establish a legal framework to protect human rights by ratifying core instruments, especially the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, signed by Bhutan in 2010 (France); ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Austria); ratify the international human rights instruments, particularly the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Algeria); ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (Spain);**

120.8 **Consider acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Zambia); continue its efforts to establish a legal framework to protect human rights by ratifying core instruments, especially the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France); accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);**

120.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Brazil);**

120.10 **Consider ratifying the main international human rights instruments not ratified, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Paraguay); continue extending its international commitments and consider ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia); consider the possibility of acceding to the major international human rights treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Italy); ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria); ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Tunisia); accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Botswana); accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Australia); accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the Court and investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes effectively before its national courts, and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Netherlands);**

120.11 **Consider becoming a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and ratifying the core ILO conventions (Austria); consider acceding to ILO Convention No. 189 (2011) concerning decent work for domestic workers (Philippines); ratify ILO Convention No. 182 (1999), concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, and No. 138 (173) on the minimum age for admission to employment (Mexico);**

120.12 **Step up efforts to accede to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (Philippines);**

120.13 **Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

120.14 **Accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Canada);**

120.15 **Ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Portugal);**

120.16 **Continue efforts to accede to the international human rights treaties (Kazakhstan);**

120.17 **Establish a relationship of constant cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms (Paraguay);**

120.18 **Improve cooperation with the United Nations treaty bodies, including by incorporating and implementing international human rights law standards (Montenegro);**

120.19 **Step up cooperation with human rights bodies and consider extending a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders, so as to enhance technical assistance and contribute to the overall improvement of standard setting in the country (Serbia);**

120.20 **Consider further cooperation with the international human rights monitoring mechanisms, including treaty bodies and special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Turkmenistan);**

120.21 **Collaborate with treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders (Chad);**

120.22 **Continue to establish cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Solomon Islands);**

120.23 **Consider issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders (Slovenia);**

120.24 **Extend an open and standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders to visit Bhutan (Peru); extend a standing invitation to all United Nations Human Rights Council special procedures mandate holders (Montenegro);**

120.25 **Strengthen its cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council by extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders (Latvia);**

120.26 **Accept requests for visits by United Nations special procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (France);**

120.27 **Invite without delay the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to visit the country, and issue a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders (Czech Republic);**

120.28 **Accept the request made by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief to visit Bhutan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

120.29 **Accept the visit request of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, and consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Ireland);**

120.30 **Undertake further actions in order to prevent child marriages (Italy);**

120.31 **Amend relevant legislation in order to ensure civil registration for all children, including fatherless children (Austria);**

120.32 **Guarantee the fundamental rights of all the country's inhabitants without discrimination and reform the Citizenship Act accordingly (Switzerland);**

120.33 **Harmonize the procedure for transmitting Bhutanese nationality in order to allow women to transmit Bhutanese nationality to their children on the same terms as men (France);**

120.34 **Continue taking measures for the protection of the rights of senior citizens, children, persons with disabilities and minorities while giving utmost priority to the provision of social security in all regions of the country (Nepal);**

120.35 **Continue working to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups in the social programmes and projects of the Government (Nicaragua);**

120.36 **Consider prohibition of the use of corporal punishment of children in all settings (Zambia);**

120.37 **Strengthen gender awareness through the incorporation of content with a human rights approach into formal and informal education in order to eradicate violence against women (Costa Rica);**

120.38 **Take measures, in law and in practice, to end all forms of child labour, in accordance with the highest international standards (Costa Rica);**

120.39 **Improve equal access to the legal aid system, in particular for poor and marginalized groups (Austria);**

120.40 **Decriminalize sexual acts between consenting adults of the same sex (United States of America, France);**

120.41 **Proceed to the abolition of existing legislation criminalizing relations between persons of the same sex (Spain);**

120.42 **Consider amending legislation criminalizing relations between persons of the same sex (Argentina);**

120.43 **Continue to provide, in accordance with its obligations under international human rights law, the widest possible protection and support for the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society (Egypt);**

120.44 **Review its laws and practices relating to religious groups to ensure that all persons, religious denominations and institutions feel free to associate and practice their religious beliefs (Sierra Leone);**

120.45 **Protect religious freedom by allowing individuals to practise their religion freely, and provide religious organizations equal opportunities to obtain legal status (United States of America);**

120.46 **Further enhance the environment for the development of civil society organizations, including in the areas of legal awareness-raising, advocacy and human rights monitoring (Austria);**

120.47 **Continue efforts to make its democratization process more inclusive and development-oriented (Nepal);**

120.48 **Enact amendments to the Electoral Code and ensure broader participation of all citizens in the electoral process and equal enjoyment of the right to vote and to stand for election (Czech Republic);**

120.49 **Establish a comprehensive and institutionalized national social security policy (South Africa);**

120.50 **Intensify efforts to make primary education compulsory, free of all costs and accessible to all children, with the implementation of additional measures to ensure the right to education for children from ethnic minorities (Brazil);**

120.51 **Strengthen measures to ensure inclusion of and respect for the rights of all ethnic and religious communities (Canada);**

120.52 **Give favourable consideration to the return from Nepal of those refugees with compelling humanitarian needs (Australia);**

120.53 **Contribute to an acceptable solution for the people living in refugee camps and give particular attention to the elderly and to those who have been separated from their families (Germany);**

120.54 **Reinvigorate the dialogue with neighbouring countries in order to allow for the return of Bhutanese refugees still living in camps across the border (Austria); intensify its efforts to resolve, through bilateral discussions, the issues relating to displaced persons formerly resident in the country and currently living in a neighbouring country(Sierra Leone); carry on a dialogue with Nepal to find acceptable solutions for the remaining Bhutanese refugees of Nepali origin in Nepalese refugee camps (Czech Republic);**

120.55 **Continue efforts to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, especially those already in camps (Zambia);**

120.56 **Allow voluntary repatriation of ethnic Nepali Bhutanese refugees to Bhutan (United States of America);**

120.57 **Resume bilateral negotiations with Nepal and cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees to Bhutan and focus in particular on addressing cases involving compelling humanitarian concerns (Netherlands);**

120.58 **Step up efforts, together with Nepal, to find a lasting solution to the situation of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal (France);**

120.59 **Take the necessary measures to allow the Bhutanese refugees who wish to return to Bhutan to do so safely and in conditions that respect their rights (Switzerland);**

120.60 **Step up efforts to ensure that the country's immigration laws and regulations are in line with its international human rights obligations (Thailand).**

121. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Bhutan was headed by H. E. Mr. Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- H. E. Mr. Yeshey Dorji, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA);
- Ambassador Sonam T. Rabgye, Director-General, PPD, MFA;
- Mr. Rinchen Kuentsyl, Deputy Chief, PPD, MFA;
- Ms. Metho Dema, Assistant Desk Office, PPD, MFA;
- Mr. Thinley Namgyel, Director, Gross National Happiness Commission;
- Ms. Dechen Zam, Chief Planning Officer, Ministry of Education;
- Mr. Sonam Tashi, Deputy Chief Attorney, Office of the Attorney General;
- Ms. Phintsho Choeden, Director-General, National Commission for Women and Children;
- Ms. Dorji Ohm, Executive-Director, Youth Development Fund;
- H. E. Mr. Daw Penjo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative;
- Mr. Kinley Wangchuk, Minister Counsellor;
- Ms. Chening Peldon, Counsellor;
- Ms. Tashi Peldon, First Secretary;
- Ms. Pema Tshomo, Second Secretary.

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Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bhutan

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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1. The Royal Government of Bhutan is fully committed to the Universal Periodic Review which it considers as a very important mechanism to promote and protect human rights on the ground. The UPR also provides an opportunity to share best practices in the field of human rights, which in the case of Bhutan is also enshrined in our Constitution.

2. The Delegation in May 2014 accepted 103 recommendations out of 163 and deferred 60 for further consideration. In compliance with paragraph 120 of the Draft Working Group Report, on the UPR for Bhutan, the Royal Government examined the deferred recommendations and responses have been drafted after thorough consultation with all relevant government agencies. This Addendum addresses all the 60 deferred recommendations.

SL. NO	*Recommendations No.*	*Response*
1.	120.1.	Bhutan intends to expand the range of its international human rights commitment, commensurate with the financial capacity and resources implications, reporting burden, and the need to amend legislation etc. The Royal Government has always maintained that to give meaningful effect to any international obligations, we must first build the legal, political, and social institutions, and develop human resources before assuming these obligations. As a small LLDC, and given the current level of development, Bhutan's priority continues to be socio-economic development. Bhutan therefore is not considering accession of the ICCPR at the moment. The Multi-Sectoral Task Force will continue to undertake study of relevant international instruments to consider feasibility of their ratification.
2.	120.2.	Subject to the review by the Multi-stakeholder Task Force of the ICESCR, Bhutan may consider accession of the ICESCR.
3.	120.3.	The principle of non-discrimination is an important principle under the laws and policies of Bhutan. Legal frameworks are in place that ensures non-discrimination to all persons. Under Art. 7(15) of the Constitution of Bhutan, all persons have the right not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, sex, language, religion, politics or other status. Current legal provisions provide framework for the protection of all persons against discrimination. Therefore, Bhutan is not considering ratification of the convention at the moment.
4.	120.4.	Under Art. 7 of the Constitution, all people have the right not to be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Other national legislations contain provision relevant to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Bhutan may consider ratification of this convention after thorough study by the Multi-Sectoral task Force and consultation with all relevant stakeholders.
5.	120.5.	Regarding ICESCR and CAT, please see response to 120.2 and 120.4. Regarding ICCPR, please see response to 120.1
6.	120.6.	Bhutan is not considering accession of the Convention and will only consider accession depending on the relevance and need.

7.	120.7.	To mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities, disabilities issues have been incorporated in our national plans and currently an assessment for a National Disability Policy is underway. Bhutan may consider ratification of this convention after thorough study by the Multi-Sectoral task Force and consultation with all relevant stakeholders.
8.	120.8.	Bhutan is not considering accession of the Convention and will only consider it depending on the relevance and need of the instrument.
9.	120.9.	Bhutan is not considering ratification of the optional protocol at the moment.
10.	120.10.	Bhutan will consider possibility of acceding to international human rights instruments taking into account the need and priorities of the Government.
11.	120.11.	The Labour and Employment Act 2008 is aligned to many international standards related to child labour including ILO Convention 182. Bhutan will only consider accession and ratification depending on the relevance and need in Bhutan's context.
12.	120.12.	See response to recommendation 120.8.
13.	120.13.	See response to recommendation 120.8.
14.	120.14.	Bhutan has instituted administrative measures to provide assistance to persons claiming refugee status on humanitarian grounds.
15.	120.15.	Bhutan is not considering ratification of the third optional protocol at the moment.
16.	120.16.	Bhutan accepts this recommendation keeping in mind the circumstances and issues explained before concerning accessions to international human rights treaties in our context.
17.	120.17.–120.29.	Bhutan remains committed to constructive engagement with the human rights mechanisms of the UN. Bhutan will continue to receive Special Rapporteurs and other Special Procedure mandate holders, taking into account its capacity, national priorities, as well as the need for adequate preparations for such visits. Bhutan recently hosted the visit of the Special Rapporteur on Right to Education, from 24 May to 4 June 2014.

18.	120.30.	Current legal framework in Bhutan adequately addresses the issue of child marriages. Child marriage is prohibited under several provisions of the Marriage Act and the Penal Code of Bhutan. While the Marriage Act explicitly prohibits child marriage, the Penal Code criminalizes any act of consensual sexual act with a child below twelve years of age as well as a child between the ages of twelve to eighteen years either with or without the knowledge of the other person being a child. Royal Government has also been proactive in addressing child marriage and teenage pregnancy through Adolescent Health Program and Education on Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health. Bhutan is part of the Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage developed by South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) in consultation with the CSOs of 8 countries and the SAARC Law Chapters. NCWC as the nodal agency, will spearhead its coordination and implementation. Bhutan accepted two recommendations, from the second UPR cycle, to raise awareness on child marriages to prevent its occurrence. These proactive steps fully demonstrate our commitment to preventing and ending child marriage. As such, Bhutan can partially accept this recommendation with the understanding that "actions" mean raising awareness on the issue.
19.	120.31.	Bhutan is already working on improving the existing civil registration system through the development of Standard Operating Procedures for birth and death registration. We are also participating in the Regional Action Framework for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and Pacific. Bhutan does not plan to introduce any amendment to its legislation on Civil Registration as the current initiatives adequately address all concerns.
20.	120.32.	The principle of non-discrimination is an important principle under the laws and policies of Bhutan. Legal frameworks are in place that ensures non-discrimination to all persons. It is our state policy to create a civil society free of oppression, discrimination and violence, based on the rule of law, protection of human rights and dignity, and to ensure the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people. Under Art. 7(15) of the Constitution of Bhutan, all persons have the constitutional right not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, sex, language, religion, politics or other status. With regard to the Citizenship Act, every sovereign nation is entitled to its own Citizenship law which defines the acquisition, transmission and termination of its people's citizenship. Like many countries, Bhutan's Citizenship Act has undergone series of amendments since its enactment in 1958, with the goal of bringing about positive procedural changes. Bhutan believes that the Citizenship Act in its current form is in the best interest of the country and its people.

21.	120.33.	It may be noted that the disparity in transmitting nationality based on parental citizenship exist in many developing as well as developed countries. Since the adoption of the Constitution in 2008, the procedure for transmission of Bhutanese nationality is same irrespective of the gender of a parent.
22.	120.34.	Bhutan Accepts these recommendations.
	120.35.	Vulnerable groups which include senior citizens, children, persons with disabilities, etc. have already been identified as a National Key Result Area in the 11th Five Year Plan. A high level Committee has been formed to identify an agency to take charge of mandates concerning vulnerable groups. Disabled friendly facilities and services have also been integrated into the 11th Five Year Plan. A high level committee has been formed to assess the need for a National Disability Policy. A National Plan of Action for Child Protection is under implementation.
23.	120.36.	The school curriculum has been reviewed to make it more gender sensitive, while the Non Formal Education programme is availed more by women and contains teaching learning materials which are gender friendly and sensitive towards rural women and their lives. Advocacy on gender issues and awareness is also being carried out in schools regularly through the Educating for GNH programme and targeted workshops on "Gender Responsiveness in the Classroom". Bhutan does not see the requirement for further incorporation of content with a human rights approach into education.
24.	120.37.	
25.	120.38.	The Labour and Employment Act 2008 is aligned to many international standards related to child labour including ILO Convention 182. Regulation on Acceptable Forms of Child Labour outlines the lists of work prohibited for children between the ages of 13-17 years. The Regulation was reviewed in 2012 to further align it to the ILO Conventions. The child labor handbook and training against child labour and on child rights are being conducted on a regular basis. Although the Child Care and Protection Act 2011 does not have provisions specific to child labour, the legislation clearly identifies children in difficult circumstances and provisions have been made under the Child Care and Protection Rules and Regulations for alternative care for children in difficult circumstances. Children involved in child labour will clearly fall under this category of vulnerable children and therefore they can be provided care and protection according to the above provisions. While Bhutan remains fully committed to fighting Child Labour and the principles on which this recommendation is based on, it does not plan to introduce any new legislation on the same as the current law and practices adequately addresses the issue. Bhutan can partially accept this recommendation to ensure effective implementation of current laws and practices.

26.	120.39.	Bhutan has all the legal provisions in place to ensure all citizens have access to the legal aid system. Bhutan does not tolerate any forms of discrimination among its citizens especially from enjoying equal access to Justice. The Constitution provides for the equal treatment of all its citizens and also protects them from all forms of discriminations. These rights are enshrined under Article 7. The Constitution also mandates the state to provide legal aid. Article 7(23) allows any person to initiate appropriate proceedings in the Supreme Court or High Court for the enforcement of the various rights conferred in the Constitution.
27.	120.40.–120.42	Section 213 and 214 of the Penal Code concerning what is termed therein as "unnatural acts" have never been evoked since its enactment for same sex acts between two consenting adults. These provisions can be reviewed when there is a felt need for it by the general population.
28.	120.43.	Bhutan accepts the recommendation.
29.	120.44.–120.45.	All Bhutanese citizens have the constitutional right of freedom of religion. However, no person can be compelled to belong to another faith by means of coercion and inducement. To protect majority of the population who are poor, uneducated and vulnerable to inducement and other coercion, Section 463(A) was inserted during the amendment of the Penal Code in 2011 which states that, a defendant shall be guilty of the offense of compelling others to belong to another faith of the defendant uses coercion or other forms of inducement to cause the conversion of a person from one faith to another. As long as a person is not compelled to belong to another faith by means of coercion or inducement, the right to freedom of practice any religion of choice is guaranteed in Bhutan. There has been no arrest or prosecution and conviction of any Bhutanese for embracing any religion of their free will.
30.	120.46.	Following the enactment of the Civil Society Act and the establishment of CSO Authority in 2009, CSOs have been recognized as an important partner in creating the necessary balance in the development of Bhutanese society, and in particular to promote social welfare and improve conditions and quality of life for all. Currently there are 38 registered CSOs, and more are emerging, particularly at the grass roots level. Most CSOs in Bhutan work to protect and promote human rights through social welfare of the people who are socially and economically marginalized. CSOs have also advocated for policies and intervention in the areas of promoting human rights in the country. The robust CSO growth in other areas also demonstrates Royal Government's continued effort in creating a sustainable environment for its development.

31.	120.47.	The democratization process in Bhutan is one of grass root engagement, both in the decision making process as well as in the implementation of its socio-economic development plans and programmes. The hallmark of Bhutanese democracy is that it is transparent, inclusive and affirmative. All elections have been open to the international community and have been monitored by International Observers and Media alike. As such, the entire process of democratization is an effort to make it more inclusive and development oriented than ever before.
32.	120.48.	The electoral laws of Bhutan fundamentally ensure that all registered voters of the country are able to participate in the electoral process. However as per best international practices, there are certain criteria which must be applied with regard to participation in the electoral process; both to vote and to stand for elections. These criteria ensure that participation in electoral process is guaranteed to a rightful and eligible citizen and voter. At the same time, certain citizens are above politics and best suited to remain so in their revered position for the common good of the country and be removed from any possibility of engaging in divisive politics.
33.	120.49.	Bhutan recognizes the need for a comprehensive Social Security Policy and is committed to taking incremental steps towards realizing this goal. As an initial first step, the Social Protection Policy for workers in the formal sector has been drafted by the Labour Ministry. Stakeholders have recognized the need for a comprehensive baseline assessment before we draft such a policy. In view of the lack of institutional and financial capacity, Bhutan is currently not in the position to accept this recommendation.
34.	120.50.	Bhutan is committed to ensuring that all children have access to free primary education. The Constitution of Bhutan guarantees the right of every child to 11 years of free Basic education. As of 2013, the Net primary Enrolment Ratio was 96% while the adjusted Net Primary Enrolment Ratio was 98.5% indicating that almost all children are enrolled in primary school. Further, the provision of free stationary and food and boarding facilities in rural and remote pockets of the country ensure that there is equitable access to education for all. Given that universal primary education has almost been achieved, and the country is well on track to achieving Education For All by 2015, the government does not feel the need to make primary education compulsory.
35.	120.51.	See response to recommendation no. 44 & 45.

36.	120.52.–120.59.	The issue of people in the camps in Eastern Nepal is a long standing humanitarian problem on which the governments of Bhutan and Nepal have been engaged in bilateral discussions for many years. The problem is not a typical refugee situation but one arising from large scale illegal immigration of economic migrants. Bhutan currently has over 1,30,000 non-Bhutanese workers which is more than in the 1990s. Some are getting married to local people in order to remain in the country while others are demanding citizenship by virtue of having lived in Bhutan. Following the first Joint Field Verification of the people in the camps in Nepal in the early 1990's, Bhutan and Nepal agreed that there were all kinds of people in the camps, including non-Bhutanese people. Third country resettlement by the Core Group of countries, led by the United States, is making significant contribution to the resolution of this humanitarian problem and we are deeply appreciative of their generous offer. Bhutan is in regular contact with the Government of Nepal and UNHCR and most recently in March2014, the Prime Ministers of Bhutan and Nepal met in Nay Pyi Taw in Myanmar on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit and in May 2014 in Delhi. In May 2014 the Prime Ministers of Bhutan and Nepal met in New Delhi on the sidelines of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swearing-in-Ceremony.
37.	120.60.	After consulting with Thailand, we have learnt that the recommendation in its current form is a result of miscommunication does not reflect the spirit and intent with which it was made. Bhutan cannot accept this recommendation.

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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

Dominica

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** The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its nineteenth session from 28 April to 9 May 2014. The review of Dominica was held at the 7th meeting, on 1 May 2014. The delegation of Dominica was headed by Mr. Vince Henderson, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the United Nations in New York. At its 14th meeting, held on 6 May 2014, the Working Group adopted the report on Dominica.

2. On 15 January 2014, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Dominica: Mexico, Sierra Leone and Germany.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Dominica:

(a) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/DMA/2);

(b) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/19/DMA/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Dominica through the troika. Those questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR).

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation stated that although Dominica had faced challenges since gaining political independence in 1978, the Government had been able to bring about significant improvements in the lives of the people. There had been major strides in access to and delivery of quality education, health care and social services, as well as protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and support for indigenous people, women and the elderly. The Government was committed to human rights, social justice and equity, which were enshrined in the Constitution of Dominica, and continued to protect the right to access to basic services. Fundamental rights had become deeply rooted in the culture, traditions and way of life of the people of Dominica. Those who were elected were required to always respect the people's wishes and, therefore, social changes must be driven by the people in a manner that reflected their collective acceptance.

6. Dominica recognized its international obligations; however, constraints on both technical and financial resources made it difficult for the country to meet some of those obligations. The absence of a national human rights institution did not indicate that his country was unwilling to protect the rights of individuals, as it had been able to guarantee them even with limited resources. Nevertheless, training and technical assistance were necessary. In that regard, he thanked OHCHR for the assistance it had provided in meeting the demands of reporting and of implementing United Nations treaty obligations. Dominica looked forward to the continued support of and collaboration with OHCHR.

7. Access to education had been increased at the pre-kindergarten, primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Almost all children had access to pre-kindergarten education, and access to primary and secondary education was universal. An unprecedented number of university scholarships had been granted to students from Dominica, including young people from the Carib Territory, to pursue studies throughout the world, especially in Venezuela.

8. The primary health-care system provided access to health services throughout the island. Additionally, access to secondary and tertiary health care continued to be subsidized by the State to ensure that everyone could benefit from health services, irrespective of their socioeconomic status. The "Yes We Care" programme provided support and free home care to the elderly.

9. With regard to the right to housing, the "Housing Revolution" initiative, implemented by the Government since 2005, had provided homes for hundreds of families, including single mothers and members of the indigenous population. Recently, the Government had announced the implementation of a new housing initiative that would make 1,000 houses available to families; that initiative would complement the national sanitation project, which aimed to provide families with modern, hygienic toilets and access to potable water.

10. The Government had appointed a special commission to implement national obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Dominica had ratified in 2012. The commission would begin work soon and would present recommendations on policies that would enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities. The Government remained committed to the full inclusion of persons with disabilities.

11. Dominica had made significant strides in the protection of women and children, including by its ratification in 2013 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Government was reviewing all legislation related to violence against women and children with a view to strengthening the relevant provisions. Resources were provided to protect women and children, in particular those who were victims of domestic violence. Since 2011, at-risk or abandoned children were provided with accommodation, care and support.

12. The national gender policy adopted in 2006 had been updated and the Government would make every effort to provide the necessary resources for its implementation. The aim of the policy was to achieve gender equality and to strengthen the implementation of the Protection against Domestic Violence Act, in order to reduce violence and discrimination against women. A national strategic plan on gender-based violence would also soon be submitted for approval, but additional resources would be necessary for its implementation. In 2011, a central registry on domestic violence had been established in the Bureau of Gender Affairs, in which a record of all reported cases of domestic violence was stored.

13. Efforts to continue to raise public awareness of gender-related issues were ongoing. Activities included "Blow the Horn", a motorcade to end gender-based violence, and a silent protest against sexual violence, especially child sexual abuse, as well as workshops and seminars with police and community leaders on violence against women and children.

14. The Education Act (Act No. 11 of 1997) allowed for the administration of corporal punishment but it was illegal for an unauthorized teacher to administer such punishment. In cases where it was authorized, several guidelines must be followed. The Ministry of Education encouraged alternatives means of discipline, which were reducing the use of corporal punishment.

15. There had been a moratorium in Dominica on the death penalty since 1986. However, popular sentiment favoured the reintroduction of executions in cases of murder. Therefore, the Government had taken the position that the death penalty would remain within the jurisdiction of the judiciary and would continue to be guided by the existing law. The current law on the death penalty was based on the 2003 ruling of the Privy Council of England, which was the final court of appeal for Dominica. In Dominica, the death penalty was the maximum penalty for murder, although it was imposed only in the most serious killings.

16. Dominica promoted freedom of expression, but the views expressed by individuals and groups opposed to the Government must remain within the legal provisions on libel and slander. Journalists must be held responsible within a democracy. Nevertheless, since independence, no criminal charges had been brought for libel or slander.

17. Since 2000, the Government had placed special emphasis on the indigenous people, the Caribs. A Ministry of Carib Affairs had been created to facilitate the delivery of government services, programmes and projects. The residents of the Carib Territory had been the beneficiaries of actions in health care, education, housing, social services, agriculture and tourism development, and of small business support programmes. As a result, Carib people had equal access to government services and, in some cases greater access than the general population of Dominica.

18. Persons living in the Carib Territory had free access to health care, and recent investments had improved local health services. Likewise, the indigenous population throughout Dominica had equal access to education. In particular, Carib children had universal access to secondary education, and post-secondary education had also been provided to Carib students since 2000.

19. Moreover, the Government had constructed 73 houses for families in the Carib Territory over the past 10 years. However, communal ownership of land in that area made it difficult for residents to obtain normal commercial financing for the construction of homes since they had no individual title and land ownership.

20. The Government had invested in special facilities for the showcasing and sale of products from the Carib Territory. Farmers in that area benefited from agricultural assistance, and members of the indigenous population received assistance in the development of small businesses and with employment under the National Employment Programme, the Small Business Support Programme and the Dominica Youth Business Trust.

21. With regard to the participation of women in political life, women in Dominica had gained the right to vote and to contest elections in 1924 and had been serving as elected and appointed members in Parliament for more than 60 years, in opposition and in Government. Women had also served as Prime Minister, Minister, Attorney-General and Speaker of the House of Assembly. Since independence in 1978, 8 women had been elected and 12 nominated to serve in Parliament. For 24 of the ensuing 35 years, women had occupied the position of Speaker of the House of Assembly. Currently, two elected women and one nominated woman were serving in Parliament on the Government side. Two elected women were also serving as senior ministers. The Government would continue to support women in political life.

22. The Constitution of Dominica guaranteed all individuals protection from discrimination based on race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, creed or sex and, also, guaranteed the right of freedom of association. The Government had never used fear or intimidation to prevent defenders of any cause from exercising their rights, and there was no law requiring individuals to state their sexual preference or conscientious position when associating. The relevant legislation only criminalized specific sexual acts, and not what

might be considered as physical manifestations or association, and nobody had been arrested or prosecuted for such acts. Nevertheless, the Government was not prepared to introduce any legislation to Parliament decriminalizing sexual relations between adults of the same sex.

23. In 2012, the Government of Dominica had supported the United Nations General Assembly resolution on extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions (resolution 67/168), in solidarity with those who continued to be punished without due process of law. Therefore, there was no need for the Government to take any follow-up measures pursuant to that resolution.

24. Since the establishment of the national HIV/AIDS Prevention Unit in the Ministry of Health in 2003, a number of programmes bad been introduced with a view to creating greater awareness, care, understanding and tolerance for persons affected by AIDS. Counselling, medication and other treatment were provided to all people living with AIDS, irrespective of their sexual orientation. The challenge of removing the stigma and the taboo associated with HIV/AIDS had been extremely difficult, but efforts to educate the public continued.

25. The Government of Dominica remained committed to protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed to all irrespective of race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex. It also aspired to provide education, health care, housing, employment and access to water and sanitation. Over the past decade, Dominica had made significant strides towards achieving those goals, although much remained to be done.

26. As a small island developing State, Dominica continued to struggle to ensure that its people were provided with a decent quality of life. However, its limited human and financial resources made it difficult for Dominica to meet its international human rights commitments. The ratification of treaties brought with it the burden of drafting reports, developing implementation plans and allocating resources to give domestic effect to those treaties. Therefore, the head of delegation called on OHCHR to provide support and to develop an assistance programme that would provide Dominica with technical support and training so that it could meet its current and future obligations.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

27. During the interactive dialogue, 48 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

28. Malaysia welcomed the update on progress made by Dominica in the implementation of recommendations arising from the first review and its efforts to combat violence against women and children, despite the challenges it had faced in preparing its report. It recognized that financial constraints represented an obstacle to the advancement of human rights in Dominica. It encouraged the country to continue implementing programmes on HIV/AIDS and to continue its efforts to improve human rights.

29. Maldives commended the progress made by Dominica in promoting human rights since the previous review, including by extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council, ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and announcing the establishment of a National Disability Council. Moreover, it acknowledged the attention paid by Dominica to the rights of the child. In its view, small States such as Dominica required financial and technical assistance in order to strengthen their national human rights mechanisms.

30. Mexico recognized the efforts made by Dominica to take part in the review, which demonstrated its commitment. Mexico valued the de facto moratorium on the death penalty

observed by Dominica since 1986 but expressed concern that the death penalty still formed part of the national legal framework. It trusted that the review would help Dominica to overcome challenges, and remained available to share its experiences.

31. Montenegro appreciated the fact that Dominica had extended a standing invitation to all special procedures and acknowledged efforts to implement the National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality. It asked about the activities envisaged by Dominica to change or amend legislation in order to ensure that hazardous work was prohibited for all persons under 18 years of age.

32. Morocco noted the difficulties that prevented Dominica from submitting a written report for review. However, the commitment of Dominica to the UPR process was evident in its participation in the review. Delays in the submission of reports to other human rights mechanisms were a consequence of prevailing challenges. It noted that Dominica did not have a national human rights institution because of a lack of resources. Morocco congratulated Dominica on its efforts regarding the right to education.

33. The Netherlands commended the progress made by Dominica with regard to the advancement and promotion of women's rights, gender mainstreaming and the overall empowerment of women, and expressed the hope that that the progress achieved would be sustained and would lead to equal rights for women. It expressed concern about the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in Dominica, mainly in connection with the unsafe environment for human rights defenders advocating equal rights for members of that group.

34. Nicaragua noted that the second review had posed a challenge for Dominica. However, although there was no national report, it was aware of the progress achieved by Dominica, in particular with regard to women and the rights to education and health. While aware that Dominica had a small economy and faced a number of social and economic challenges, Nicaragua urged it to continue making efforts to strengthen its national policies to guarantee human rights.

35. Paraguay welcomed the decision of Dominica to reform the legal framework to address domestic violence and physical ill-treatment of children. It encouraged Dominica to document those and other challenges in a report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Paraguay took note of the ratification by Dominica of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its plans to establish a National Disability Council, and acknowledged improvements in the health sector.

36. Portugal welcomed the fact that since the previous review, Dominica had extended a standing invitation to the special procedures. It further welcomed the review of the legal framework to combat domestic violence and physical child abuse, as well as the achievement of universal access to primary and secondary education free of charge.

37. Singapore noted that despite the challenges faced by Dominica as a small island developing State, progress had been made in the promotion and protection of human rights. It took positive note of achievements in improving public health, of the emphasis placed on the promotion of gender equality and of efforts to combat gender-based violence, in particular the legislative framework in place to protect women against violence.

38. Slovenia commended Dominica for its efforts to address domestic violence and physical abuse of children, and for positive gains regarding gender equality and women's empowerment. It encouraged Dominica to continue fighting discrimination and prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. While noting that the death penalty had not been applied since 1986, it expressed concern that Dominica retained the death penalty.

39. Spain recognized efforts made by Dominica, including its extension of an open and standing invitation to the special procedures. It commended Dominica on the adoption of policies to protect women, but noted the continuing prevalence of violence against women. It expressed concern at cases of corporal punishment in prisons and detention centres, as well as in educational centres. Lastly, it noted that unemployment rates and basic social indicators indicated a gap between the Kalinago population and other citizens.

40. Cuba acknowledged efforts made by Dominica to promote and protect human rights, in particular by the adoption of national policies on gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as improvements in the health sector, which were reflected in a decrease in the under-5 child mortality rate. It highlighted the broad national cultural policy of Dominica, improvements in the right to education, which was universal and free of charge, and efforts to protect the rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

41. The State of Palestine commended Dominica for its efforts to enhance the situation of human rights despite constraints, and its adoption of legislation and policies supporting gender equality and women's empowerment. It also commended Dominica for efforts to integrate information and communication technologies into the education system.

42. Thailand noted that Dominica had become a party to a number of international human rights instruments and encouraged it to accede to other such instruments. It acknowledged the social and safety net programmes that had been introduced, and encouraged the Government to integrate all such programmes in order to maximize their potential impact. Thailand expressed appreciation for the efforts of Dominica to improve the rights of children, and its willingness to share experiences on the protection of human rights. It encouraged the international community to provide assistance and technical cooperation, upon request.

43. Trinidad and Tobago empathized with the challenges faced by Dominica in seeking to safeguard its ecological integrity while improving the living standards of its citizens within the framework of equitable and sustainable development. It noted the continuing steps being taken to maintain the autonomy and rights of the Kalinago people.

44. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the progress achieved in the advancement of women's rights, gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment, as well as efforts to fight poverty and the ratification by Dominica of a number of conventions. It expressed concern that Dominica had undertaken to ratify other treaties but had not done so, perhaps owing to capacity constraints. It encouraged Dominica to establish a formal moratorium on executions with a view to the eventual abolition of the death penalty.

45. The United States of America said that despite efforts, domestic violence remained a serious problem, with support systems for survivors and resources for enforcement agencies being insufficient. A critical gap existed in the legal framework to keep children away from the worst forms of child labour. The United States expressed concern about the criminalization of consensual same-sex activity between adults and noted that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims of violence and harassment often avoided reporting abuse.

46. Uruguay appreciated the efforts made by Dominica to participate in the review, which were a clear indication of its commitment to the UPR process. Uruguay highlighted progress made in the national agenda for the promotion and protection of human rights since the previous review, noting in particular the open invitation extended by Dominica to special procedures.

47. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the efforts made by Dominica to implement the recommendations made during the first review, despite the challenges. It highlighted the ratification by Dominica of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It acknowledged the achievements of Dominica in reducing unemployment, ensuring free and universal access to education and combating sexual abuse against children.

48. Algeria said that it understood why Dominica had not submitted a national report, and asked about the support that the international community and OHCHR could provide in order to enable it to fulfil its obligations, in particular with regard to the submission of reports. It welcomed the ratification by Dominica of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as its accession to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. It expressed the view that Dominica could benefit from international capacity-building assistance.

49. Argentina congratulated Dominica for its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. It encouraged Dominica to ratify other international human rights instruments to which it was not yet a party, and urged it to continue adopting measures to address domestic violence and physical ill-treatment of children.

50. Armenia noted that Dominica had not ratified a number of core international human rights instruments and emphasized the importance of ratifying the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide. It commended the efforts expended by Dominica to realize the right to education and called for the introduction of human rights education in school and university curricula. It welcomed improvements to the right to health and also valued the efforts of Dominica to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and of women.

51. Australia remained concerned by the legal provisions criminalizing sexual relations between lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. It commended Dominica for its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. It welcomed the de facto moratorium on executions but remained concerned that the current legislation allowed for the death penalty.

52. The Bahamas expressed appreciation for the challenges facing Dominica in connection with financial and human resource constraints, climate change and natural disasters. Dominica had sustained a strong parliamentary democracy, promoting and protecting human rights within the context of respect for the rule of law. The Bahamas commended Dominica on its review of the legal framework, particularly with regard to combating domestic violence and physical abuse of children. It noted the multimedia awareness-raising campaign conducted to raise awareness of sexual abuse of children, and applauded the adoption of legislation supporting gender equality. The Bahamas was ready to support Dominica in the promotion of human rights.

53. Barbados commended Dominica for its efforts to strengthen its legal framework and to protect human rights, to review legislation relating to domestic violence and physical abuse of children, to reduce under-5 mortality rates, and to improve school enrolment rates. Dominica was committed to enhancing the social and economic rights of its citizens, but considerable resources were required in order for it to do so. Barbados called on the donor community to demonstrate greater sensitivity to the unique financing difficulties faced by small States. It recognized the challenges that Dominica faced in integrating its international obligations into national legislation.

54. Benin welcomed the progress made by Dominica in implementing recommendations from the first review. In particular, it noted the adoption by Dominica of laws and policies promoting equality and the empowerment of women, its creation of national committees to

monitor the rights of the child, and its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto.

55. The Plurinational State of Bolivia commended Dominica for its detailed presentation and highlighted the progress made since the previous review. It commended Dominica for its ratification of a number of important international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

56. The head of delegation thanked States for their contributions and acknowledged that a national report would have responded to most of the concerns expressed. In particular, he recognized the contribution and support of members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

57. Dominica was a small island developing State that faced severe challenges brought about by the hostile global economy and other institutional pressures. The country no longer received preferential treatment for the agricultural sector and was struggling with development. Those were the harsh realities that faced small island developing States. Dominica was also vulnerable to natural disasters, and had to deal with damage caused by severe weather every year. However, it had provided support to its people in order to ensure them a better quality of life.

58. Although much had been achieved, much remained to be done in terms of development. Some communities in Dominica still did not have access to safe drinking water and it had not been possible to make the necessary investments to ensure that potable water was available, particularly to small and rural communities. However, with assistance from the European Union and other development partners such as Venezuela and Cuba, every community in Dominica would have access to potable water by 2015.

59. The country continued to struggle to provide opportunities for children. However, significant progress in that regard had been made with the assistance of partners such as Morocco and Mexico.

60. Significant work had been undertaken to improve the lives of the people in the Carib Territory, in particular with regard to education. Dominica had done everything possible to ensure that indigenous people received the kind of attention that could improve their lives.

61. The Government was paying particular attention to violence against women. Although much remained to be done, the Government had provided protection through the Protection against Domestic Violence Act, passed in 2001, and through the provision of services, despite resource constraints.

62. Child labour was another area in which everything possible should be done to ensure that children were not forced to work. Dominica would definitely pay attention to the need to review the laws in order to protect children from hazardous work.

63. Although the use of corporal punishment had decreased, several associations in Dominica continued to criticize the Government for its rigorous guidelines on that matter. The Government's view was that the country should move away from the use of corporal punishment as far as possible, and it would continue to work towards that goal.

64. Dominica provided support to persons with disabilities, although much remained to be done. The provision of such support was a work in progress, and was costly.

65. At times, the efforts made by small island developing States were greeted with hostility. The trade sector was one of the country's biggest concerns since it had ceased to receive preferential treatment, especially in the European market. Under such circumstances, it was not easy to achieve economic development. Likewise, since 2008 the global economic crisis had affected Dominica and resulted in severe financial constraints.

In view of the fact that most of the commitments under the UPR process required some financial investment, Dominica called on the international community to assist it in its endeavours.

66. Brazil said it was pleased to learn that Dominica had undertaken a review of its legal framework and administrative practices and policies with a view to strengthening action against domestic violence and physical abuse, particularly against women and children, as recommended during the previous review. In addition, it noted that a number of improvements had been made in the education sector. However, the right to life required greater attention and respect for sexual orientation required urgent attention.

67. Canada noted that in 2010, Dominica had agreed to establish greater support systems in the form of more secure housing for women seeking shelter from domestic abuse. It therefore asked the delegation to provide information on progress achieved so far in that regard. Canada welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

68. Chile took note of the various programmes that had been implemented for the promotion and protection of human rights. It urged Dominica to continue with that process with a view to guaranteeing the full enjoyment of human rights, with the support of the international community and relevant technical assistance.

69. China was pleased with the efforts made by Dominica to eliminate poverty and noted its commitment to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women and children. Dominica had promoted gender equality and improved health and education; the infant mortality rate had declined, most of the population had access to safe drinking water, and the school enrolment rate had increased. It understood the challenges faced by Dominica as a small island State, and called on the international community to provide assistance in the areas of finance, technology and capacity-building.

70. Costa Rica regretted the absence of a national report from Dominica in view of the importance of such documents for the UPR process. However, it congratulated Dominica on measures taken to improve the situation of children, such as the awareness-raising campaign on sexual abuse of children, and on the review of the legal framework to strengthen action against domestic violence and ill-treatment of children. It recognized improvements in the areas of health and education, urged Dominica to prohibit corporal punishment and expressed the hope that it would abolish the death penalty.

71. Sri Lanka welcomed the efforts of Dominica to promote human rights despite the challenges that it faced, and took note of its commitment to reform its legal framework and administrative measures in order to combat domestic violence and physical abuse of children. It acknowledged the initiatives introduced to achieve gender equality and efforts to implement the national gender policy. It encouraged Dominica to facilitate further access to education for all by allocating adequate resources and reinforcing teacher training.

72. The Democratic Republic of the Congo noted that Dominica had undertaken a review of its legislative framework, had taken steps to strengthen the framework for combating domestic violence and child abuse, had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and had issued a standing invitation to special procedures. However, it noted that there had been delays in the submission of reports to treaty bodies. It asked Dominica to provide further information on measures adopted to promote the harmonious social integration of ethnic minorities.

73. Denmark commended Dominica for engaging with the UPR process by accepting a large number of recommendations at the first review. However, it noted that little progress had been reported in some areas. In particular, it noted the lack of progress in the fight against torture, observing that Dominica had not ratified the Convention against Torture

and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Denmark highlighted an initiative launched by several countries to help Governments overcome obstacles to ratifying that Convention.

74. Ecuador acknowledged the efforts made by Dominica to implement previous recommendations, in particular those promoting the right to health. It highlighted the common fund for basic needs that aimed to provide communities with resources in order to improve their access to basic services, to increase employment and to reduce poverty. It commended Dominica for its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and offered to share best practices in that connection.

75. Ethiopia commended Dominica for measures taken to ensure access to education and welcomed its efforts to ensure primary health care.

76. France welcomed the ratification by Dominica of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its issuance of a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders.

77. Germany asked to know the reason why Dominica had not submitted a national report. It acknowledged the progress made by the country towards the full realization of the human rights of its citizens in the areas of action against domestic violence and physical abuse of children. It called for the abolition of corporal punishment and noted that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons were exposed to prejudice and violence because consensual same-sex activity was criminalized.

78. Ghana welcomed the cooperation of Dominica with special procedures mandate holders and commended it for steps taken to implement some of the recommendations accepted during the first review, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto. It expressed the hope that Dominica would accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

79. Indonesia noted that Dominica had faced challenges in implementing a number of commitments made during the first review and observed that there was a need to take substantive action in order to implement them. Establishing a national human rights institution should be a matter of priority, and addressing the right to education was fundamental to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

80. Iraq said that it appreciated the fact that a human rights plan had been drafted, as well as the efforts made by Dominica to review its legislation, in particular that relating to domestic violence, child abuse and gender equality. It expressed support for the continued efforts of Dominica in that regard.

81. Ireland encouraged Dominica to continue to improve action against domestic violence and physical abuse of children and to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and commended it for issuing a standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders. It urged Dominica to consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and to consider abolishing the death penalty. It expressed concern about the criminalization of consensual same-sex activity and of defamation, and expressed regret that recommendations made during the first cycle regarding the Sexual Offences Act had not enjoyed the support of Dominica.

82. Italy welcomed progress achieved in the promotion of human rights. It noted that Dominica was not a party to some core international treaties and asked whether it envisaged acceding to those instruments. It expressed appreciation for the long-standing moratorium on capital punishment and for the ongoing debate on the death penalty.

83. Jamaica stated that despite the absence of a national report, the commitment of Dominica to the UPR mechanism must be recognized. Capacity constraints and the resources challenges faced by small island developing States could prevent their timely and effective compliance with their reporting obligations. Jamaica strongly supported efforts to strengthen technical assistance and capacity-building, in particular from OHCHR, on how to meet reporting and implementation obligations. It welcomed measures taken by Dominica, such as the review of the national legal framework, and efforts to combat domestic violence and child abuse and to support gender equality and women's empowerment. It was pleased that Dominica had acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

84. Kenya acknowledged that Dominica had upgraded its legal and administrative frameworks to reform laws, policies and practices, noting in particular its strengthening of the framework to combat domestic violence and physical abuse of children. It acknowledged the challenges that would require the attention of Dominica in the future.

85. Sierra Leone said that it understood the difficulties faced by a small island nation in the preparation of national reports but encouraged Dominica to submit its overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies and to provide further information on progress achieved in the implementation of the UPR recommendations. It commended Dominica on conducting an extensive review of the legal framework and administrative measures with a view to reforming national laws, and urged it to implement an inclusive health plan, to combat gender-based violence and to harmonize a protection framework for stateless persons.

86. The head of delegation said that the extensive recommendations of all delegations concerning matters that would continue to be the focus of his country's efforts had been noted. While much had been accomplished, much remained to be done. Dominica remained committed to the UPR process and to fulfilling its obligations.

87. With respect to the ratification of conventions, the constraints encountered by Dominica in its efforts to fulfil its obligations under the conventions it had already ratified had caused it to reflect deeply before undertaking further such obligations. However, the assistance of OHCHR in that regard was welcome. Dominica would like to have a meaningful dialogue on the issue of capacity to see how to fulfil its current obligations and would provide adequate information for the conventions that it had ratified.

88. The Government was elected to represent the people, and it was the people who were required to determine how to transform society. The transformation was a process that would take time, effort and education, in addition to public awareness. It was more beneficial to have engagement from the ground up and to include the people in the process, as that would ensure that some of the values that the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review wished to transfer were widely accepted. Although several countries had taken centuries to rid themselves of some of the issues that the Working Group was asking Dominica to tackle, his country remained open to dialogue and invited United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations and other States to engage with it.

89. All children from Dominica had access to primary and secondary education. More specifically, while the Government had the will to ensure education for children with disabilities, the limited resources available represented a real challenge. It was hoped that those countries that had raised concerns in connection with that issue would engage with Dominica bilaterally so that they could work towards achieving that goal.

90. The Working Group might consider revisiting the concern about the unsafe environment of human rights defenders, because there was no form of violence against them in Dominica, nor was there any environment of fear and intimidation for any group.

91. The efforts made by NGOs on the ground, in particular to end violence against women, should be acknowledged. With strong advocacy from the Dominica National Council of Women and other groups, Dominica had been able to draft the Protection against Domestic Violence Act, which protected the rights of women.

92. Dominica had to continue to make efforts to improve its system of governance and to provide the people with opportunities and equal rights. Small island developing States faced tremendous challenges. In order to overcome those challenges, it was important to cooperate to ensure that interventions were made in the areas where they were needed. In that spirit, Dominica welcomed all States, United Nations agencies and NGOs that wished to work closely with its Government and people.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

93. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below enjoy the support of Dominica. It was recommended that Dominica:**

93.1 **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Trinidad and Tobago);**

93.2 **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (France);**

93.3 **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Portugal);**

93.4 **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Sierra Leone);**

93.5 **Become party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Australia);**

93.6 **Prioritize the need to become party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ghana);**

93.7 **Plan to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

93.8 **Continue to give serious consideration to ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Jamaica);**

93.9 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Kenya);**

93.10 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as previously accepted (Denmark);**

93.11 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Montenegro);**

93.12 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France);**

93.13 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sierra Leone);**

** Conclusions and recommendations will not be edited.

93.14 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

93.15 **Prioritize the need to become party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);**

93.16 **Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Kenya);**

93.17 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (Spain);**

93.18 **Ratify and implement the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as its Optional Protocol (Benin);**

93.19 **Consider the possibility of ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (Ecuador);**

93.20 **Step up its efforts and strengthen its measures to ensure gender equality by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Netherlands);**

93.21 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Portugal);**

93.22 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**

93.23 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal);**

93.24 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sierra Leone);**

93.25 **Prioritize the need to become party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);**

93.26 **Accede to the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

93.27 **Prioritize the need to become party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, taking into account the fact that the Commonwealth of Dominica is party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Ghana);**

93.28 **Ratify International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers (Uruguay);**

93.29 **Consider establishing a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Kenya);**

93.30 **Consider the creation of a national human rights institution or Office of the Ombudsperson, in conformity with the Paris Principles (Nicaragua);**

93.31 **Consider the possibility of establishing a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles that govern these mechanisms, while also asking for technical and financial assistance (Morocco);**

93.32 **Accelerate the studies and internal procedures required for the establishment of a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles, in cooperation with OHCHR (Uruguay);**

93.33 **Call upon OHCHR to provide technical assistance to Dominica for the establishment of a national human rights institution, which is an essential building block for the progress of human rights, as previously recommended by Maldives during the first cycle (Maldives);**

93.34 **Continue strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights through its institutions, legislation and public policies (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

93.35 **Promote human rights education and capacity-building (Armenia);**

93.36 **Seek technical assistance in order to further advance the dissemination of human rights in the country (Sierra Leone);**

93.37 **Continue making efforts to advance in meeting its commitments under the international instruments to which the State is a Party (Nicaragua);**

93.38 **Strengthen cooperation with the treaty bodies by requesting the necessary technical assistance to this end (Algeria);**

93.39 **Consider requesting technical assistance from the international community, including from OHCHR, in particular in terms of capacity-building, in order to allow it to overcome the challenges linked to delays in the submission of its reports to human rights mechanisms (Morocco);**

93.40 **Collaborate with various United Nations human rights mechanisms and submit outstanding reports to treaty bodies (Paraguay);**

93.41 **Building on its constructive engagement in this session, strengthen its efforts to bring its reporting obligations up to date as soon as possible (Jamaica);**

93.42 **Undertake the necessary efforts to submit the corresponding periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, indicating specifically if the Penal Code of Dominica provides for the definition of any type of violence against women as a criminal offence (Uruguay);**

93.43 **Request greater efforts by OHCHR to further assist capacity-constrained small States in the Caribbean, such as to address the challenges faced by Dominica in harmonizing and integrating its international obligations with national legislation, as well as the increased reporting obligations attendant thereto (Barbados);**

93.44 **Strengthen the efforts to fight against discrimination, guaranteeing the physical and mental integrity of the population (Ecuador);**

93.45 **Continue its work towards the eradication of acts of racism and other forms of discrimination and intolerance (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

93.46 **Continue supporting efforts to empower women and to promote and protect children's rights, including by providing adequate financial and human resources to implement policies and programmes afforded to them (Malaysia);**

93.47 **Take further steps to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of women and children, including through strengthening support services (Australia);**

93.48 **Implement education and awareness-raising programmes on gender equality in the framework of efforts to combat stereotypes conducive to domestic violence and discrimination against women (Mexico);**

93.49 **Continue the efforts to protect the rights of persons affected by HIV/AIDS (Cuba);**

93.50 **Consider the promotion and protection of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

93.51 **Continue its efforts in eliminating violence against women and girls to provide a safe living environment for them (Singapore);**

93.52 **Speed up the process of adoption of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence (Ethiopia);**

93.53 **Ensure relevant agencies have sufficient resources and staff to enforce existing domestic violence laws (United States of America);**

93.54 **Undertake an assessment of active policies for the protection of the rights of women and strengthen mechanisms for tackling gender-based violence, with particular emphasis on employment, education and awareness-raising, as well as the system for compiling data on gender-based violence (Spain);**

93.55 **Ensure compliance with its international obligations through the implementation of effective legislative and other measures to protect women and girls from domestic and sexual violence, including sexual harassment, by prohibiting sexual harassment, and establishing the administrative procedures by which sexual harassment complaints can be investigated and perpetrators held accountable (Canada);**

93.56 **Take further measures to address domestic violence and physical child abuse, including by ensuring adequate reporting of child abuse (Portugal);**

93.57 **Take effective measures to respond to child abuse by establishing a comprehensive child protection policy (Trinidad and Tobago);**

93.58 **Adopt administrative and legislative measures to combat domestic violence and physical ill-treatment of children (Chile);**

93.59 **Continue efforts to protect the rights of the child, by taking all necessary measures to combat violence against children and child labour (France);**

93.60 **Adopt a comprehensive list of hazardous work prohibited to children and amend its laws to raise the minimum age for employment to at least 15 and to expressly prohibit the use, procuring or offering of a child for pornography (United States of America);**

93.61 **Implement actions and immediate measures for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, in conformity with ILO Convention No. 182 (Uruguay);**

93.62 **Take further measures to improve women's access to decision-making and management positions, and to positions with improved career prospects, in both the public and private sectors (State of Palestine);**

93.63 **Continue its efforts by developing and supporting consultative mechanisms whereby children are able to communicate with government agencies (Thailand);**

93.64 **Take the necessary steps to ensure equal access to employment and training opportunities to the Kalinago people and persons with disabilities (Trinidad and Tobago);**

93.65 **Continue to prioritize poverty alleviation in its socio-economic development so that its people will better enjoy their right to life and their right to development (China);**

93.66 **Continue strengthening social plans and programmes under implementation to combat poverty, exclusion and social inequality, with an emphasis on employment, food and health for the benefit of the population, with particular attention to those most vulnerable sectors, and for which it is extremely important to have the support, assistance and cooperation of the community of nations (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

93.67 **Further strengthen measures to ensure equal access to health services for all, while giving special attention to the needs of children, women and elderly persons (Sri Lanka);**

93.68 **Continue, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, to improve its national health care system and ensure access to quality health care for all (Singapore);**

93.69 **Continue its efforts to promote and protect the full enjoyment of the right to education for all (Portugal);**

93.70 **Strengthen measures to enhance access to education (Ethiopia);**

93.71 **Intensify its efforts to promote and protect the full enjoyment of the right to education and take further steps to make access to education easier for all, including by allocating adequate resources and by reinforcing teacher training (State of Palestine);**

93.72 **Continue its efforts to make access to education easier for all, including by allocating adequate resources for education for the people (Indonesia);**

93.73 **Continue to focus on the overall improvement in the quality of education provided and make access to education easier for all (Malaysia);**

93.74 **Provide an inclusive education for all children, in particular children with disabilities and migrant children (Thailand);**

93.75 **Continue to strengthen the national cultural policy (Cuba);**

93.76 **Promote cross-cutting measures to prevent discrimination against persons with disabilities in the education system, including measures that allow for a safe physical access to education centres and classrooms (Mexico);**

93.77 **Strengthen the measures aimed at guaranteeing the full integration of persons with disabilities through an inclusive education plan (Argentina);**

93.78 **Take steps to ensure the provision of inclusive education for all children with disabilities, including specialized centres for assessment and support, as needed (Canada);**

93.79 **Adopt active measures to enable better integration of the Kalinago population and to close the relative gap they confront (Spain).**

94. **The following recommendations will be examined by Dominica, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council in September 2014:**

94.1 Undertake measures for the prompt signature and ratification of the core international instruments for the protection and promotion of human rights, as well as for the submission of outstanding reports (Mexico);

94.2 Continue the process of signing and ratifying international human rights instruments (Chile);

94.3 Consider ratifying the main international human rights instruments not yet ratified (Paraguay);

94.4 Consider the ratification of major international human rights instruments (Algeria);

94.5 Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);

94.6 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uruguay);

94.7 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);

94.8 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);

94.9 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);

94.10 Create a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

94.11 Establish a national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in line with the Paris Principles (France);

94.12 Redouble its efforts in establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);

94.13 Step up the implementation of measures to reduce discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation, including awareness activities (Chile);

94.14 Take the necessary measures to reduce prejudices and discrimination based on the sexual orientation of the person (Argentina);

94.15 Intensify its efforts to reduce discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation (Portugal);

94.16 Make every effort to reduce discrimination based on sexual orientation and consider abolishing all legislation which entails constraints to the realization of the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender population, including laws which criminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Brazil);

94.17 Decriminalize homosexuality and combat discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (France);

94.18 Decriminalize consensual adult same-sex activity by amending article 14 and repealing article 16 of the Sexual Offences Act (Ireland);

94.19 Repeal all provisions that criminalize same sex relations, including in particular article 16 of the Sexual Offences Act (Germany);

94.20 **Repeal all provisions that discriminate against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity, including those in the Sexual Offences Act (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

94.21 **Repeal provisions in national law that criminalize same sex relations, including in the Sexual Offences Act, and take steps to ensure the rights of these persons are protected (Australia);**

94.22 **Modify existing sections of the Criminal Code that apply to buggery and indecency so that same-sex sexual activity between consenting adults is not criminalized, and adopt legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (United States of America);**

94.23 **Establish anti-discrimination laws and regulations ensuring that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and other vulnerable groups enjoy equal treatment (Netherlands);**

94.24 **Reinforce its anti-discriminatory legal framework in order to provide for a strengthened protection of the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Italy);**

94.25 **Maintain the de facto moratorium on the death penalty and consider abolishing the death penalty all together (Slovenia);**

94.26 **Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Sierra Leone);**

94.27 **Take all necessary measures to establish a formal moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Brazil);**

94.28 **Consider adopting a de jure moratorium on the death penalty soon, with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**

94.29 **Abolish the death penalty and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Costa Rica);**

94.30 **Abolish the death penalty in law and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (France);**

94.31 **Take appropriate legislative and administrative measures to combat domestic violence and physical ill-treatment against children, including the prohibition of the practice of corporal punishment (Costa Rica);**

94.32 **Continue its efforts to promote the rights of the child and work towards the elimination of the use of corporal punishment in school (Maldives);**

94.33 **Align the definition of children in all juridical instances and ensure that no life sentence is applied to any child under the age of 18 years (Mexico);**

94.34 **Prohibit sentences of corporal punishment for children and life imprisonment of children under the age of 14, under all systems of justice and without exception, to ensure full compliance with international standards (Germany);**

94.35 **Adopt a law that guarantees freedom of information (Spain);**

94.36 **Decriminalize defamation (Spain);**

94.37 **Decriminalize defamation and place it under the Civil Code in accordance with international standards (Ireland).**

95. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as having been endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Dominica was headed by Mr. Vince Henderson, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Commonwealth of Dominica to the United Nations Headquarters in New York and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Nakinda Daniel, Third Secretary, Dominica High Commission in London.